

KENTUCKY MARKERS

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KENTUCKY IN GENERAL

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# Kentucky

## Markers

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
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HARRODSBURG, KY., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1922.

## MONUMENT UNVEILED HERE ON THURSDAY TO MARK THE GRAVE OF REV. JESSE HEAD

If the spirit of Rev. Jesse Head could have looked down on the old town on Thursday afternoon it might have wondered and speculated as to the object of the ceremony that then took place and was associated with the pioneer preacher.

Under sunny skies and the best auspices, the movement suitably to mark the last resting place of the old time citizen was carried out with due solemnity and appropriateness. Meeting at the Lincoln cabin on the slopes of Fort Hill all those who were to take part were lined up in due order for the march to Spring Hill Cemetery, and shortly after 2:30 the long line wound its way along the main thoroughfare to carry out the appointed duty. Leading were many of the school children in charge of the principal, Prof. A. K. McKemie, and while a number carried a large flag, the others walked in pairs behind, to be followed in turn by about fifty automobiles in which were representatives of public bodies, including the Harrodsburg Historical Society, the Woman's Club, the Daughters of the Revolution, and the W. C. T. U. Many of the cars were decorated with patriotic and other emblems, and the tout ensemble was of an imposing kind. Arrived at the cemetery, all adjourned to the grave of the old patriot hitherto unmarked, and the ceremony proceeded with due impressiveness.

The movement to mark the grave of Rev. Jesse Head was begun some time ago, in order to commemorate the fact that he had officiated at the marriage of Abriham Lincoln's father and mother, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, in the old cabin which now forms one of the historical attractions of the city, and which was then located in Washington county. The prime movers in the project were Rev. William E. Barton, D. D., LL. D. of Oak Park, Ill., author of several works on the great President, and Miss Mary

Stevenson of the city and others. The outcome was an appropriate monument for the grave of the old preacher and his wife, Jane Ramsey Head. The monument is of Kentucky marble set on a base of native limestone and was made by the Brown Monument Co., of this city. Inserted into the face of the marble slab is a handsome bronze tablet designed by Jules Berchen of Chicago, an associate of Leonard Vold, sculptor, who made the famous mask of Abraham Lincoln. The tablet bears the following inscription:

REV. JESSE HEAD

Jan. 28, 1768—March 22, 1842

Preacher—Editor—Patriot

He married Jan. 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln and

Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln

JANE RAMSEY HEAD

April 10, 1768—Aug. 30, 1851

Married Jesse Head Jan. 9, 1789, and nobly shared with

him the privations and trials of the life of a

pioneer preacher.

At the grave the following program was carried out, Judge Ben C. Allin ably presiding:

Procession of the Fraternal Orders, Women's Clubs and School Children of Harrodsburg, starting from the Lincoln Cabin on Old Fort Hill and proceeding to the grave in Spring Hill Cemetery.

K. B. Phillips and J. T. Ingram, Sr., Marshals

Judge Ben Casey Allin, presiding.

Invocation.....Rev. J. D. Redd

Vocal Duet—"Whispering Hope"

Miss Sue Johnson, Miss Ollie Morgan

Original Poem.....Henry Cleveland Wood

Address.....Rev. William E. Barton, D. D., of Chicago

Unveiling of Monument

By Mary Elizabeth Hutton and Jane Bird Hutton, great-great-great-granddaughters of Rev. Jesse Head.

Vocal Quartette—"Lead Kindly Light"

Miss Sue Johnson, Mrs. J. Hal Grimes, F. D. Curry,

Burnett Alderson

Masonic Prayer and Benediction.....Rev. S. S. Daughtry

Mrs. J. Hal Grimes, Musical Director

The while proceedings were of an impressive character, one of the most interesting features being the unveiling ceremony by Misses Mary Elizabeth Hutton and Jane Bird Hutton, daughters of Mr. D. M. Hutton, editor of the Herald. The little ladies performed the task of lifting the drapery in the most appropriate way and looked charming in the act.

Miss Mary Stephenson introduced the speaker of the day, Dr. Barton, who delivered a very interesting and impressive address in the course of which he paid a well deserved compliment to Miss Stephenson who has done so much to further the movement and to unearth the records of the life of Jesse Head with such satisfactory results. Passing to the subject of his address he referred to the movement which had that day terminated so successfully, placing in stone and bronze the record of a fact so long without documentary evidence and which had also served to mark the grace of one, a patriot and a pioneer, whose resting place had narrowly escaped any marking at all.

Dr. Barton gave a very interesting account of the life of Head for many years a resident of this place, where he had carried on the business of undertaker and acted as preacher. This was the man, he said, who had performed the ceremony of marrying Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, the father and mother of Abraham Lincoln, the fact being testified to by a writing in his own hand and now preserved in Washington county, where the marriage took place. Many years elapsed before this certificate was brought to light, and in fact it was not known to exist in the President's time, who never possessed any evidence of the marriage of his father and mother. An interesting fact was brought out in the address, that it was the old pioneer preacher who first discovered the medicinal qualities of Graham Springs, and that it was the attraction of the springs that drew him to Harrodsburg in the year 1810.

The ceremony concluded about four o'clock. Mr. K. B. Phillips and Mr. J. T. Ingram were parade marshals.

#### REV. JESSE HEAD

Deacon Methodist Episcopal Church

Read by the author at the dedication of the Head Monument in Spring Hill Cemetery, November 2, 1922.

He was a man, God-fearing and austere,  
Bold in denunciation of all wrong,  
And fearless when he battled for the right.  
He worked in wood on week days at his bench,  
But on the Sabbath rode and preached The Word,  
Seeking to bring all sinners unto Christ.

Within the counties where he worked and lived,  
He entered largely in the people's lives,  
Was one of them, shared joys and sorrows, too,  
Young couples wed—the groom in suit of jeans,  
His blushing bride in home-made cap and gown;  
Perchance the couple rode the selfsame nag.

He little dreamed—this earnest man of God,  
When he united in the holy bonds  
Of matrimony these two simple lives,  
Tom Lincoln and his sweetheart, Nancy Hanks,  
In that rude cabin built of native logs  
On Beech Fork waters in the long ago—

That from this lowly union there would spring  
A modern Moses to a captive race;  
A just man, fashioned in heroic mould—  
Of Hero's stuff—a fearless President—  
Emancipator—yet a Martyr, too—  
Abraham Lincoln—Man of Destiny.

—Henry Cleveland Wood.

Harrodsburg, Ky., Nov. 2, 1922.



## Head Memorial Address By Dr. Barton

The account in the last issue of the Herald of the Jesse Head memorial exercises and the unveiling of the chaste and beautiful monument, was necessarily very brief as it happened Thursday afternoon just at the hour this paper is due to go on the press, but printing was held back until late in the afternoon in order to incorporate in it an item regarding the program. Many points that would have been in a fuller notice, had there been time to write it, were for this reason, unavoidably and unintentionally omitted. Every detail of the program was admirably carried out and its success is due largely to Miss Mary Stephenson, chairman of the committee in charge, and also treasurer of the monument fund, and to Miss Martha Stephenson, secretary of the committee, who with her sister worked tirelessly to make the event a memorable one. Every person on the program contributed to its success and interest. It is this ready spirit of co-operation and helpfulness that enables so many community enterprises here to be carried through with such fortunate results.

The memorial address of Dr. William E. Barton, D. D., LL.D., of Oak Park, Ill., splendidly delivered and rich in local history, is printed in full in the Herald this week. Mr. Henry Cleveland Wood's beautiful poem dedicated to the occasion, which was one of the features of the program, made doubly attractive because the author read it, is also published in connection with Dr. Barton's address. The Herald readers will find both of them eminently worth while. There is a slight inaccuracy in Dr. Barton's address inasmuch as it was Mr. N. L. Curry who originated the movement to bring the Lincoln cabin from Washington county to Harrodsburg, and not Hon. W. W. Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson, with other members of the Harrodsburg Historical Society, heartily co-operated in securing the cabin for this place.

We are assembled in a place appointed for the burial of the dead, but we have not come to mourn. The man around whose grave we stand came to the end of his earthly life in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in its season. He had lived his three score years and ten and had continued four years longer upon borrowed time. His faithful wife, who sleeps by his side, lived until she was more than four score years of age. There was no occasion for bitter grief at the time of their death; they had lived their honest, virtuous and completed lives. Death had for them no terror, and the grief of those who remained behind was grief without a sting. Even if there had been sorrow at the time, and there appears to have been no occasion for it, there would be no reason for it now. It is more than eighty years since Jesse Head died. Mark Anthony at Caesar's funeral is supposed by Shakespeare to have said that he came to bury Caesar, not to praise him. Quite other is the case with us. We came not to bury Jesse Head, but to pay him a tribute of honor. We are assembled to unveil above the hitherto unmarked grave of Jesse Head and his wife a simple but dignified and durable monument that shall perpetuate the memory of the last resting place of these two simple but sincere and earnest servants of God.

It is not the memory of a funeral that calls us together; it is rather a reminder of a wedding. That wedding was one of the many in which Jesse Head had a share. The court records of this county of Mercer, as well as those in Washington county, bear witness to the frequency with which he was called upon to solemnize marriages. The one we have in mind was at the time in no important respect different from the others. It was a backwoods wedding and it was celebrated after the usual boisterous fashion of such festivities, on the Beech Fork, in Washington county. The house in which the marriage occurred then stood in the name of Richard Berry.

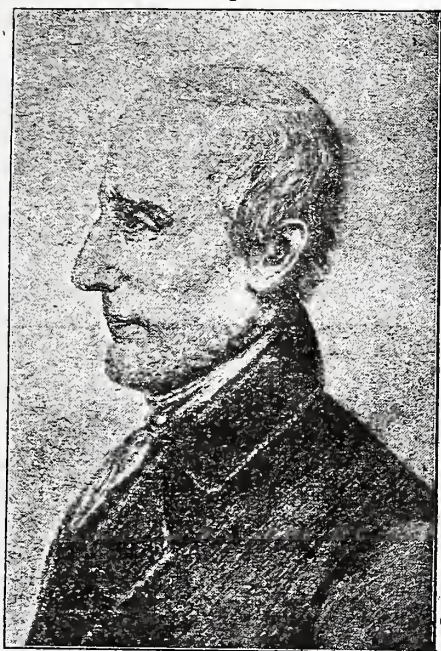
Through the enterprise and public spirit of Hon. W. W. Stephenson, the logs of that building were saved from oblivion, and stand re-erected in the historic cabin, hard by the site of the old Fort of Harrodsburg. It is that wedding which associates the name of Jesse Head with that of the Lincoln family, and insures the perpetual remembrance of the name of Jesse Head. That marriage occurred on Thursday, June 12, 1806. Thomas Lincoln, aged 28, was joined in marriage to Nancy Hanks, aged 23.

For more than seventy years the record of this marriage was unknown. Abraham Lincoln himself was not aware that the record existed. His mother died in 1818, and his father in 1851. Up to that time he had had no occasion to inquire particularly concerning the records of his family. Not until after his debate with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858 did he emerge into national politics, and find himself in request for information concerning his ancestors. The natural place to look for such record was in Harrodsburg, for Thomas Lincoln had owned land there as early as 1803, and that county was the home of the Hanks family. But in 1835 Lincoln had returned to Washington county where his widowed mother had resided since the death of her husband in 1786, and where the two elder brothers of Thomas, Mordecai and Josiah, continued to live. There also Nancy Hanks, an orphan, was in residence, the Berry family apparently being relatives. Neither Abraham Lincoln nor anyone else during his life time discovered the record, for no one thought of looking for it in Washington county. There was a tradition in Washington county, however, that the marriage had occurred within its bounds. Mrs. C. S. H. Vawter does not appear to have been wholly accurate in all her records and opinions, but this she certainly did in that she published in the Louisville Courier of April 14, 1874, her statement that, having gone to Washington county as a school teacher in 1859, she there heard at the time of Abraham Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency the statement of an old man that the parents of Abraham Lincoln had been married in that county in the home of Francis Berry. How much this publication had to do with the discovery of the record, may perhaps be matter of dispute;

but the fact is that four years later, in 1878, Mr. William F. Booker, County Clerk of Washington county, discovered the marriage bond, signed by Thomas Lincoln and the second Richard Berry, dated June 10, 1806, and a marriage return certifying the wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806, by Jesse Head, a deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

But who was this Jesse Head? Conference records and other official sources were searched in vain. Rev. E. B. Head, a grandson, gave rather meager information. So little was learned about Jesse Head in 1878, or in the forty years that followed, that there were those who freely charged that no such minister existed, and that the record was a forgery, created for the purpose of disproving the charge that Abraham Lincoln was an illegitimate child. When I first set about the gathering of material for a book, published in 1920, bearing the title, "The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln," the information which I found available was so meager that I was compelled to institute an investigation upon my own account, the first document, excepting the marriage record itself, which had any important bearing upon this question, were some which I was able to locate in a personal investigation in Washington county. In this matter I was assisted by the County Attorney, Hon. Joseph Polin, and subsequently, and to a larger extent, by Hon. Lefe S. Pence, of Lebanon, Kentucky. Through the efforts of these friends and such investigation as I was able myself to make, the career of Jesse Head in Washington county emerged and took form, and Mr. Pence has himself written the substance of it in a series of articles printed in Lebanon.





REV. JESSE HEAD

Far greater, however, is my obligation to Miss Mary A. Stephenson, whose prolonged and diligent search, in which she has been assisted by her sister, Miss Martha, has resulted in the recovery of virtually the whole history of Jesse Head, from 1810 to 1842; for in the former year, he removed from Washington county to Mercer and here in Harrodsburg he spent the last thirty-two years of his life. But for the labor of Miss Stephenson we should not be holding this celebration. Here Jesse Head's widow remained after his death until she also died. Their bodies at first were buried in the garden of his own home, but later were removed to this cemetery, where today we are erecting this memorial.

It had been my hope that Miss Stephenson would consent to give to us today an account of the life and work of Jesse Head, particularly that part which he spent in Harrodsburg. She has declined this suggestion and I will not attempt to do what I hope she will yet do over her own signature. Let me, however, briefly outline the life of the man, whose grave we today are marking.

Jesse Head, son of William Edward Head, was born June 10, 1768, in Frederick county, Maryland. On April 10, 1768, was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, Jane Ramsey, to whom he was married January 9, 1789. About 1795, he migrated from Maryland to Kentucky and made his home on Road Run, not far from the Lincolns and Berrys. His farm consisted of fifty-four acres. His name is not found in the Washington county tax lists of 1792 or 1795, but in the next list which has been discovered, that of 1797, his name appears. It recurs in the lists of 1800, 1801, 1803, 1804, 1805. Many of the lists have perished. It is probable that if all had been preserved we

should find him continuously living in Washington county from 1796 to 1810. He had a farm and owned horses, never less than one and sometimes as many as three, but he owned four lots in the town of Springfield, and there he resided during the greater part of the period of his residence in Washington county. He was a cabinet maker and a justice of the peace. On April 3, 1802, he became a trustee of the town of Springfield, and on June 10, 1803, became president of the Board of Trustees. His office as justice of the peace began January 6, 1798. From that date until October 10, 1810, when he signed his last court order in Washington county, his signatures to official documents are numerous. His duties judicial and ecclesiastical did not prevent his performance of his work as a carpenter. To him was committed the erection of a whipping post, stocks and pillory in the Court House Square at Springfield.

Jesse Head was entitled to solemnize marriages as a justice of the peace, but his marriages were not performed in that capacity. His official returns were signed, Jesse Head, D. M. E. C., by which he meant Deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Until now it has been impossible to give any clear statement of his ecclesiastical standing. In 1920 was published "The Journal of the Western Conference for the Years 1800-1811." In this volume it was recorded that at a meeting of the Conference, held at Anthony Houston's in Scott county, Kentucky, October 2, 1806, Bishop Asbury presiding, Jesse Head was in good standing as a deacon. This is so far as I know the only extant record of his standing as a minister. This is early enough to cover the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks; but this was not the beginning of his ministry. Mr. Pence found in Washington county a book of "Court Martials" from 1796 to 1812, in which was the record of the men charged with evading militia duty. On May 25, 1798, it was recorded that Jesse Head, who had been returned as delinquent, was cleared off the muster, he having a license to preach according to the rules of the sect to which he belongs." The original ordination of Jesse Head as a deacon must have been at least seven years earlier than the Conference record cited. The records of that period, both civil and ecclesiastical, are meager and fragmentary; but these two are sufficient. They certify to us Jesse Head's ecclesiastical standing in the ministry of his own denomination, and the recognition of that standing by the civil and military authorities of the county in which he lived.

Living as he did in the county seat and seldom if ever being long absent on a circuit, Jesse Head was available for marriages. A very large proportion of the couples married in Washington county, prior to 1810, were married by him. He did not make his returns for each marriage separately, but sent in his record at intervals of several months, certifying a dozen or fifteen marriages on the same sheet. His handwriting was legible. Invariably he signed his name with a long S in his name Jesse. I suppose it to have been his availability as well as his being a neighbor and a friend of the Lincolns and the Berrys which caused him to be called to solemnize the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks; for the Lincoln family and the Hankses were Baptists.

In 1810, as already stated, he removed to Harrodsburg, where he bought a lot on the site of the present Hotel Harrod, nearly opposite the Court House. There he established his shop, the making of coffins being no small part of his trade.

He must have been acquainted in Harrodsburg at a considerably earlier period. On November 25, 1845, more than thirty years before the name of Jesse Head was given publicity in connection with the marriage of the Lincolns, General Robert B. McAfee, in a letter to Dr. Lyman C. Draper, said:

"The Harrodsburg Springs were first discovered by the Rev. Jesse Head, a Methodist clergyman, in 1806."

If General McAfee was correct in this, then Harrodsburg owes one of its chief distinctions to Mr. Head, and he made the discovery in the very year in which he married the parents of Abraham Lincoln. It is quite possible that it was his faith in these springs which caused him to remove his residence from Springfield to Harrodsburg.

In November, 1811, Jesse Head was elected a trustee of the town, and in 1813 he became chairman of the board. Very many of the town records are in his clear and legible handwriting. In 1815, he resigned as trustee on account of his removal from town; but in 1819 he was back again in Harrodsburg, for again he was elected a trustee and served as chairman of the Board in March of that year. He was a member of the Board almost contin-



In those years he married many couples. Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, the proprietor of the Harrodsburg Springs, being among those whose marriages he solemnized.

I have not discovered that Jesse Head was ever ordained an elder in the Methodist church. The eldership was understood to involve the riding of a circuit; and Jesse Head, in the language of the Methodist ministry in that day, was "located." We have numerous, and as I judge, reliable traditions, about his preaching in and about Harrodsburg and other towns; and he appears to have been active in connection with the early history of Methodism in Lexington. I do not find, however, that he was ever pastor of a church in that city, and he certainly was not pastor of the Methodist church in Harrodsburg, for that was founded in 1827, and the list of its ministers is complete and does not include the name of Jesse Head. He preached as many other pioneer ministers preached, working with his hands and riding on horseback to his various appointments. His was a service of which there was no record, save that which is kept in the books of the Recording Angel. But who can estimate the heroism, the sacrifice and the value of services such as he performed in the pioneer days of this county and commonwealth?

In 1830, Jesse Head, in association with his son, Bascom Head, a printer, began the publication in Harrodsburg of a newspaper, called "The American." It was a Democratic organ, and was opposed by another local paper called "The Union." Some warm controversies grew out of this situation, and it is to one of these we owe a bit of doggerel that gives us a description of the personal appearance of Jesse Head:

"There is a man in our town,  
Who walks the streets in a dressing-gown;  
His nose is long and his hair is red,  
And he goes by the name of Jesse Head."

Jesse Head was a man who made warm friends, and some pronounced enemies. One of these attempted either to kill or terrify Jesse Head. He waited for the minister as he was on his way to the Court House, and after Head had passed, he fired. Jesse Head turned back and faced him. "If you meant to kill me, you are a coward," he said, "and if you thought to frighten me, you are a fool."

For his day, Jesse Head was a well read man. His library was listed for sale ten years before his death, and it showed quite a remarkable range. There were seven volumes of church history, and seven of Wesley's sermons, and two sets of Clarke's commentaries, and a goodly assortment of other books, those on Methodism being prominent.

The listing of these books reminds us of Jesse Head's financial affairs. That he did not accumulate money as a result of his ministerial labors, need not be affirmed. He did not prosper in his secular business. More than once he was close to the edge of insolvency. His son bought his house and his personal property, and held them in trust, so that the old preacher and his widow had a roof over their heads as long as they lived. Otherwise he might have been homeless.

Jesse Head attained the age of three score and ten, and lived four additional years. He died March 22, 1842, and was buried with Masonic honors. His wife lived until August 30, 1851. The closing years of their lives appear to have been uneventful. Their home was guaranteed to them by the faithfulness of their son, and they found means of supplying their simple wants. So they lived and finished their earthly pilgrimage, and had no dream that we should gather here today to pay honor to their memory.

Abraham Lincoln had not risen to fame when Jesse Head died. Jesse Head never heard of him. The minister had no occasion at any time during his life to think of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks as more likely to attain distinction than any of the other numerous couples whom from time to time he married. If Jesse Head had been told that eighty years after his death a company like this would gather about his grave and pay tribute to his memory, it would have puzzled him to give a probable reason for such an improbable event, and if he had spent a year guessing he would never have been able to conjecture the real occasion of our coming.

Let not the casual association of his name with the Lincoln family blind us to the real glory of this man, Jesse Head, a glory which he shared with hundreds of other pioneer preachers whose very names are forgotten. Yet these were the men who came into a wilderness at a time when the thoughts of men were on the purchase of land and the fighting of Indians, and too often on the racing of horses and the drinking of whisky, and when it seemed that religion might be crowded wholly out of their lives and the life of the

new civilization which they planted. These men, of whom Jesse Head was one, preserved the religious integrity of our civilization in one of its periods of crisis.

Edward Everett Hale had a little poem in which he honored the nameless men who toiled for us before we were born—the men who crossed the ocean and made homes in the wilderness. If we think of the men who crossed the mountains his lines would apply:

"What was his name? I do not know his name;  
I only know he heard God's voice and came,  
Brought all he loved across the sea,  
And came to work for God and me.  
No pealing trumpet sounded forth his fame,  
He lived, he died; I do not know his name."

Not all of these pioneer preachers were educated men. Very few of them had so many books as Jesse Head. Some of them might even be called ignorant. But I like to remember a wise remark of Governor Ford in his History of Illinois, in which he says that while the pioneer preachers were undoubtedly ignorant, no one of them had difficulty in finding congregations still more ignorant. These men were adapted to their civilization. They preached a militant gospel, dogmatic, vigorous, and full of the terrors of hell. Their preaching in time brought a great revival, in which the future of Kentucky took on new life and hope. The wilderness had a baptism of fire. These backwoods preachers were the saviours of our Christian civilization in the new regions west of the mountains. In honoring one of them, this day, let us honor all of them, and with them their devoted and self-sacrificing wives. Nobly did they serve their generation, and worthily did they lay the foundations for much that is best in this generation, which for the most part has forgotten their graves and in many instances their very names. They were hard-handed men, accustomed to corn-plowing and horse-trading, and they lacked many elements which might appear desirable in a ministry; but they were in earnest, and they were part and parcel of the civilization which they helped to shape, and their influence was permanent and good. Theirs was a work which brought with it little recognition and no financial reward; nor is it possible at this late day to recover their names. This grave, like the grave of the unknown private at Arlington, may well represent to us the unmarked graves of all the men who rode through the woods in those early days, preaching and warning and inviting men to turn to God.

Turn now from the preacher who performed the marriage to the couple whom he married. Thomas Lincoln, aged 28, and Nancy Hanks, aged 23, belonged, both of them, to what President Abraham Lincoln called "undistinguished families." The Lincolns had more distinction than the Hankses. But there was nothing that gave promise that Thomas Lincoln in his rough jeans suit and Nancy Hanks in her linsey-woolsey, would ever become distinguished. Nor did they attain distinction. Yet they gave to America and the world one of the very greatest of our Presidents.

We have many reasons for honoring Abraham Lincoln. One of them comes freshly to us this day as we stand by the grave of this homespun hero, Jesse Head. Abraham Lincoln is part and parcel of America's own pioneer life. He typifies and exemplifies America; his life is a kind of epitome of our history, beginning as it does in the back woods, and reaching the crest of our civilization. When we honor Lincoln we honor primitive Kentucky, and primitive America.

Well may Kentucky rejoice in every honor paid to this, her illustrious son. Illinois is proud of his manhood, and Indiana of his boyhood; but Kentucky gave him birth. Abraham Lincoln belongs to no one State and to no one section. But Kentucky may well cherish in him her own honorable pride. She was his mother, and gave him to the world.



## Monument Will Be Erected on Site of Old Home of Lincoln's Father; Harrodsburg Woman on Committee

*English Herald Aug 13, 1925*

[Special to The Herald]

HARRODSBURG, Ky., Aug. 12.—Miss Mary Stephenson, of Harrodsburg, has been appointed a member of the committee to erect a monument on the site of the old home of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, in the Knob Creek section of Larue county. The monument will be erected by the Kentucky State Historical Society, whose headquarters are at Frankfort.

Miss Stephenson's researches have added a great deal of valuable data to Lincoln's history. It was she and her sister, Miss Martha Stephenson, who discovered among

the old records in the Harrodsburg courthouse the marriage bond of Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, Lucy Hanks, to Henry Sparrow, which was issued in 1790.

Before the finding of this marriage bond Lincoln historians had been unable to definitely locate Nancy Hanks, Abraham's mother, in her own family.

Through the co-operation of the Misses Stephenson this important discovery was revealed for the first time in the latest Lincoln book by Dr. W. E. Barton, one of the fore-

most Lincoln students in the United States. Joseph Hanks had four daughters, Lucy, Elizabeth, Nancy and Polly. When Lucy's little daughter was born she was named for her aunt, Nancy Hanks. On Lucy's marriage to Henry Sparrow the little Nancy went to live with her aunt, Elizabeth, who had married Thomas Sparrow. The marriage of the two Hanks sisters to two men, each named Sparrow, and the rearing of the little Nancy by a woman who was not her own mother, had caused a confusion that searchers into Lincoln history had been unable to unravel, lacking authentic data, until Miss Stephenson located the marriage bond of Lincoln's grandmother in the archives at the Harrodsburg courthouse.

# Knob Creek Home Site of Lincoln to Have Marker

*Barclay's Standard 8-13-25*

The executive committee of Kentucky Historical Society held a meeting in the rooms of the society on Monday, and heard Judge O. M. Mather, of Hodgenville and J. M. Atherton, of Louisville, in a request that the Historical Society sponsor the erection of a suitable marker on the Jackson Highway in Larue county at the site of the Knob Creek farm home of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln.

Evidence was presented by Judge Mather from Miller's "Life of Lincoln" from the court records of Hardin County. (Hardin County at that time including what is now Larue), from Dr. Barton's "Life of Lincoln" and other sources, establishing the fact that Thomas Lincoln lived in the Knob Creek section from the time Abraham Lincoln was 2 years old until he was about 7 1-2 years old, at which time the family moved to Illinois. Mr. Atherton stated that he was reared in the Knob Creek section and that he recalls having many times seen the old Thomas Lincoln home where the family had lived.

## Read Lincoln Letter

From the various facts presented authenticating the Knob Creek home it is clear that while Lincoln was born on the site now marked by the Lincoln Memorial about three miles south of Hodgenville, Lincoln's only recollection of his Kentucky home was the old Knob Creek home, his parents having moved to the Knob Creek home when he was only 2 years of age. Judge Mather read from Miller's "Life of Lincoln" an extract from a letter that Lincoln had written to Samuel Haycraft in Kentucky on June 4, 1860, shortly after Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency. In this letter Mr. Lincoln says:

"The place on Knob Creek, mentioned by Mr. Read, I remember very well. But I was not born there. As my parents have told me, I was born on Nolin, very much nearer Hodgenville than the Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."

As the Knob Creek home was the only one Lincoln could remember in Kentucky, it was apparent to the Historical Society that there ought to be a marker indicating this historic site.

## To Erect Marker

The idea of erecting this marker originated with Mr. Atherton and he

had interested a number of other people in the project, but thought it ought to be sponsored by the Historical Society, as it is interested in the preservation of historical sites as well as in the accumulation of historical data and other lines of historical work.

After hearing the statements and requests of Mr. Atherton and Judge Mather the committee voted unanimously to sponsor the erection of the marker and proceeded to appoint a general committee made up of the following persons:

J. M. Atherton, Louisville, chairman; Judge O. M. Mather, Hodgenville, vice chairman; Gov. W. J. Fields, Mrs. S. C. Kirkpatrick, Hodgenville; Congressman Ben Johnson, Bardstown; Mrs. Ben Johnson, Bardstown; L. B. Handley, Hodgenville; Mrs. Emily T. Helm, Lexington; Senator F. M. Sackett, Louisville; Senator R. C. Ernst, Covington; Mrs. W. T. Lafferty, Lexington; Judge John F. Hager, Ashland; Mrs. Eugene Ray, Louisville; R. C. Ballard Thurston, Louisville; Mrs. Gilbert Reynolds, Paducah; Marvin H. Lewis, Louisville; Judge S. M. Wilson, Lexington; Otto Rothert, Louisville; Mrs. C. E. Purcell, Paducah; Miss Mary Stephenson, Harrodsburg.

## \$2,000 Fund Needed

An executive committee also was named with power to act in the matter of soliciting funds, securing the necessary ground and having the marker erected. This executive committee is composed of:

J. M. Atherton, Louisville, chairman; Judge O. M. Mather, Hodgenville; R. C. Ballard Thurston, Louisville; Marvin H. Lewis, Louisville; Judge Alex Humphrey, Louisville.

Mr. Atherton presented a sketch of the proposed marker, to be made of rough granite with bronze tablet. After some discussion by all present it was thought that a fund of \$2,000 would cover the entire expense of the marker, including the necessary ground for its erection. The executive committee hopes that a great many people will want to have some part in this enterprise and will be glad to have a cash subscription in any sum the donor may care to give from \$1 up. Subscriptions should be sent to J. M. Atherton, care of the National Bank of Kentucky, Louisville, Ky.



# ANOTHER MARKER ON JACKSON WAY

## HOME SITE OF LINCOLN ON KNOB CREEK TO BE

MARKED.

P. Du Cour Viree 8-13-25

Frankfort, Ky. August 10—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Kentucky State Historical Society, held in the rooms of the society, J. M. Atherton, of Louisville and Judge O. M. Mather, of Hodgenville appeared before the committee and requested the Historical Society to sponsor the erection of a marker on the Jackson Highway in LaRue County at the site of the Knob Creek home of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln.

Judge Mather presented evidence from Miller's "Life of Lincoln," from the court records of Hardin County (Hardin county at that time including what is now LaRue,) from Dr. Barton's "Life of Lincoln" and other sources, establishing the fact that Thomas Lincoln lived in the Knob Creek section from the time Abraham Lincoln was 2 years old until he was about 7 1-2 years old, at which the family moved to Illinois. Mr. Atherton stated that he was reared in the Knob Creek section and that he recalls having many times seen the old Thomas Lincoln home where the family had lived.

### Lincoln Letter Read.

From the various facts presented authenticating the Knob Creek home it is clear that while Lincoln was born on the site now marked by the Lincoln Memorial about three miles south of Hodgenville, Lincoln's only recollection of his Kentucky home was the old Knob Creek home, his parents having moved to the Knob Creek home when he was only 2 years of age. Judge Mather read from Miller's "Life of Lincoln" an extract from a letter that Lincoln had written to Samuel Haycraft in Kentucky on June 4, 1860, shortly after Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency. In this letter Mr. Lincoln says:

"The place on Knob Creek mentioned by Mr. Read, I remember very well. But I was not born there. As my parents have told me, I was born on Nolin, very much nearer Hodgenville than the Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."

As the Knob Creek home was the only one Lincoln could remember in Kentucky, it was apparent to the Historical Society that there ought to be a marker indicating this historic

### TO ERECT MARKER

The idea of erecting this marker originated with Mr. Atherton and he had interested a number of other people in the project, but thought it ought to be sponsored by the Historical Society, as it is interested in the preservation of historical sites as well as in the accumulation of historical data and other lines of historical work.

After hearing the statements and requests of Mr. Atherton and Judge Mather the committee voted unanimously to sponsor the erection of the marker and proceeded to appoint a general committee made up of the following persons:

J. M. Atherton, Louisville, chairman; Judge O. M. Mather Hodgenville, vice chairman; Gov. W. J. Fields Mrs. S. C. Kirkpatrick, Hodgenville; Congressman Ben Johnson, Bardstown; Mrs. Ben Johnson, Bardstown; L. B. Handley, Hodgenville, Mrs. Emily T. Helm, Lexington; Senator F. M. Sackett, Louisville, Senator R. C. Ernest, Covington; Mrs. W. T. Lafferty, Lexington; Judge John F. Hager, Ashland; Mrs. Eunice Ray, Louisville; R. C. Ballard Thruston, Louisville; Mrs. Gilbert Reynolds, Paducah; Marvin H. Lewis, Louisville; Judge S. M. Wilson, Lexington; Otto Rothert, Louisville; Mrs. C. E. Purcell, Paducah; Miss Mary Stephenson, Harrodsburg.

### To Seek Funds.

An executive committee also was named with power to act in the matter of soliciting funds, securing the necessary ground and having the marker erected. This executive committee is composed of:

J. M. Atherton, Louisville chairman; Judge O. M. Mather, Hodgenville; R. C. Ballard Thruston, Louisville Marvin H. Lewis, Louisville; Judge Alex Humphrey, Louisville.

Mr. Atherton presented a sketch of the proposed marker, to be made of rough granite with bronze tablet. After some discussion by all present it was thought that a fund of \$2,000 would cover the entire expense of the marker, including the necessary ground for its erection. The executive committee hopes that a great many people will want to have some part in this enterprise and will be glad to have cash subscriptions in any sum the donor may care to give from \$1 up. Subscriptions should be sent to J. M. Atherton care of the National Bank of Kentucky Louisville, Ky.—Louisville Post.



## Discuss Lincoln Memorial Tablet

William Nelson Woman's Re-  
lief Corps Meets.

The erection of a Lincoln Memorial Tablet at Louisville was the topic discussed at the regular meeting of the William Nelson Woman's Relief Corps, No. 2, Auxiliary to the G. A. R. The session was held at the Junior Order Home, Newport, and a report of the project was given by Mrs. Emma V. Mason, patriotic instructor and department aide. The annual convention of the G. A. R. and W. R. C. have been held in Louisville for a number of years and it is planned to have the tablet in that city. The check from Nelson Corps for contribution to the fund was presented Miss Mary C. Sanford of Covington, who has charge of this patriotic work. Miss Edna M. Hughes, secretary for the Memorial tablet work, reports the following members assisted in collecting a substantial fund: Sarah Perry, Jennie Hughes, Adelia Reed, Katherine Fahlbush, Virgie Langley, Ida M. Hughes, Elizabeth Hennessy, Rosa Craddock, Amanda Davis, Amelia Rickerson, Clara C. Grau, Edith M. Hughes, Margaret Melner, Nettie Posey, Lizzie McClain, Hazel Ehmet, Ella Detto, Clara New, Thelma Walt, Annie Hughes, Julia Trantloff, Lina Hill, Mary F. Staubach, Kate McDaniel, Amelia Thome, Elizabeth Loffink, Mae Doebling, Lyda Ginn, Anna Abbe and Emma V. Mason.

COVINGTON, KY., TIMES-STAR  
DEC. 17, 1923



LOUISVILLE KY. COURIER-JOURNAL  
FEB. 15, 1931 F21

Where the grandmother and two aunts of Abraham Lincoln are buried in Hardin County, Kentucky. The small, neglected stone at the right is the grave of Bathsheba Lincoln, the grandmother, and the two at left are those of Mary Lincoln Crume and Nancy Lincoln Brumfield.

(Photo by Charles Betz, C.-J. staff photographer.)



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### The Lincoln Tablet.

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1869-1934  
There was recently placed in the new Courthouse in Elizabethtown, with appropriate ceremonies, a tablet to James Buchanan, who practiced law in Elizabethtown for a time and was afterwards elected President of the United States. Why should not a tablet be placed in the same building to Abraham Lincoln who was born in Hardin county? Dr. D. E. McClure, at the exercises, related it as a remarkable circumstance that Lincoln and Buchanan were both living in Hardin county at the same time, that they were both Presidents of the United States and that Lincoln succeeded Buchanan. If the Hardin County Historical Society was interested enough in the brief residence of James Buchanan to place a tablet to him in the new Courthouse, why should it not be interested in placing a tablet to Abraham Lincoln, who was born in Hardin county. It seems that tablets to two Presidents, Buchanan and Lincoln and the circumstances of their both living in Hardin county at the same time would be a proper and natural thing, and would attract much attention.

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**Dedication**  
—OF—  
**Lincoln Tablet**  
—AT—  
**Court House, Feb. 12, 1935**

2:00 P. M.

**ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.**

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Community Singing ..... Mrs. J. S. Hawkins, Leader  
Invocation ..... Rev. Arthur Stovall  
Presentation of Tablet ..... Marker Committee  
Acceptance of Tablet for Hardin County ..... Judge  
H. B. Fife  
Dedication ..... Virginia Beeler  
Community Singing.  
Benediction ..... Rev. J. S. Hawkins

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**PUBLIC CORDIALLY INVITED**  
**HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**











# PROGRAM FOR DEDICATION CEREMONIES MARK OF LINCOLN TABLET. TABLET DEDICATION.

**Patriotic Music and Speeches Will Mark Ceremonies Here. Lincoln History is Given in Addresses Yesterday.**

Everything has been arranged for the dedication, Thursday, of the bronze tablet erected to the memory of Sallie Bush Johnston, foster mother of Abraham Lincoln, a gift to Elizabethtown of Dr. W. A. Pusey, of Chicago.

The exercises are to begin at the Court-house at 2:15 p. m. with the singing of "America." Mrs. J. F. Albert, President of the Woman's Club, will extend greetings to speakers and visitors. Rev. L. A. Warren will make the introductory address, and Dr. William E. Barton, of Chicago, noted as an authority on the life of Lincoln, will make the principal address of the occasion.

After Dr. Barton's address the ceremonies will be concluded in the Court-house. "America, the Beautiful," adopted as the official song by the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, will be sung by the school children, after which Dr. W. A. Pusey will formally present the tablet to the community. A representative of the county will make the speech of acceptance.

The Woman's Club has published a booklet as a memorial to the woman who meant so much to Lincoln in his boyhood, and whose influence helped mold his character. This booklet will be on sale. It contains a fac-simile of the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln; his signature, the affidavit of Mr. S. H. Bush, nephew of Sarah Bush, the foster mother, as to its authenticity; the picture of the cabin in which the wedding took place, along with a sketch of some of the people who have lived in it and the part played by them in the life of the community and of the nation.

The roof over part of this house, containing the original wooden pegs and hand wrought nails with which it was put on, has been worked into souvenirs which may be purchased.

The tablet to Sally Bush Johnston Lincoln, the foster mother of Abraham Lincoln, was dedicated in the Court-house yard here yesterday afternoon with appropriate services. The stone which contains the bronze tablet came from the Mill Creek farm where Thomas Lincoln first lived in Hardin county.

The exercises were held in the court room. Mrs. J. F. Albert, the President of the Woman's Club, presided and introduced the speakers. The tablet was presented by Dr. W. A. Pusey, of Chicago, a native of Elizabethtown.

After the audience sang "America," Mrs. Albert introduced Rev. L. A. Warren, who was until recently the pastor of the Christian church here. Mr. Warren not only contributed his part of the program but also took the place of Dr. W. E. Barton, of Chicago, who was to deliver the principal address.

Mr. Warren, in the outset of his remarks, said that five women had contributed materially to making Abraham Lincoln the great President he was. He said they were Nancy Hanks Lincoln, his mother; Sarah Lincoln, his sister, who was born in Elizabethtown; Sallie Bush Johnston Lincoln, his foster mother, who was also born in Hardin county; Amy Rutledge, his boyhood sweetheart at New Salem, Indiana, and Mary Todd, also of Kentucky, who was the wife of the martyred President.

He also referred to the five homes of the Lincolns in Kentucky—the cabin

in Jefferson county, in which Thomas Lincoln was born; the farm on Mill Creek, which was the first home of Thomas Lincoln; the cabin in Elizabethtown, to which he brought his bride, Nancy Hanks, and where he lived until 1888; the Lincoln Farm in Larue county, and the farm on Knob Creek, from whence Lincoln left for Indiana, with his wife and little son, Abraham.

He said that the records showed that Thomas Lincoln was not the shiftless man he had been portrayed to be, but a respectable, honest citizen who had frequently served on juries and filled other positions and paid his debts.

He paid a tribute to the Elizabethtown of the Lincoln days as an educational and religious center and where the social life was as good as anywhere in the pioneer days.

Five families were present through representatives which he called upon to stand up in turn. The first was Mrs. Jane Lasley, whose mother was Lucy Lincoln, and who is an own second cousin of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. S. H. Bush is the grandson of Christopher Bush, one of the first settlers of Hardin county, and a nephew of the foster mother of Abraham Lincoln. Mrs. Elodie Helm Lewis, whose mother is a sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, and she is also the daughter of Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who commanded a brigade in the Confederate army and was killed at Chickamauga. Charles Friend of Glendale was not able to be present, but he is a direct descendant of the Hanks family.

Mrs. Albert next introduced Dr. Pusey, the donor of the tablet, who made the presentation speech. Dr. Pusey enumerated some of the distinguished men which Hardin county has contributed to the history of the United States, and closed with a splendid tribute to Lincoln's foster mother. He declared that the four greatest men in the United States had been Washington, Franklin, Lee and Lincoln.

The acceptance speech was appropriately made by D. M. Cooper, City Attorney of Elizabethtown, who spoke in behalf of the citizens of the county.



~~THOMAS~~ LINCOLN TABLET, ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky

## Lincoln Day in Elizabethtown.

Yesterday was Lincoln Day in Elizabethtown, when the handsome bronze tablet to Lincoln's foster mother, who was born and raised in Hardin county, was presented to Hardin county by Dr. W. A. Pusey, of Chicago.

It was a gracious and appropriate thing when our former fellow-townsmen presented that tablet to Elizabethtown and Hardin county. Mr. Lincoln once said, "What ever I am or have accomplished I owe to my mother," referring to his step mother who raised him and was responsible for his early education. His father, Thomas Lincoln, lived the greater part of his life here and made his home for several years in this city with his first wife, Nancy Hanks. It is really a great pity that this old Lincoln cabin was not preserved. Lincoln in his autobiography says he was born in Hardin county, which was correct, as the Lincoln Farm was then in Hardin county.

Mr. Samuel Haycraft, the well known Hardin county historian wrote in his "History of Elizabethtown" that he bought the boy Abe Lincoln his first pair of shoes and his first straw hat when his father, Thomas Lincoln, brought him into the Hardin County Clerk's office.

It was also a letter written by Mr. Lincoln himself, while President, to Mr. Samuel Haycraft, which established, beyond dispute, where the great war President was born. Hardin county was the real birthplace of Abraham Lincoln and Elizabethtown for a number of years the home of Thomas Lincoln and his family. This was also the trading point for the Lincolns, as we have seen the entries against him in many places in the books of R. L. Wintersmith, who was then conducting a store here.

This tablet to his foster mother, to whom he owed so much, will continue throughout time to remind the people of Lincoln's association with Elizabethtown. The News thanks Dr. W. A. Pusey for his gift, as it is not only the proper recognition to a noble woman, who implanted in her step son the great principles which characterized his life, but also keeps in mind the fact Abraham Lincoln belonged to us in part, with the Lincoln farm on which he was born.

## Memorial to Lincoln's Mother

The Elizabethtown Woman's Club of Elizabethtown, Ky., is superintending the erection of a monument as a memorial to Nancy Hanks Lincoln and Sally Bush Lincoln. These two women, the mother and the foster mother of Abraham Lincoln, were at one time residents of Elizabethtown, and the marker commemorating this fact will be placed on the court house

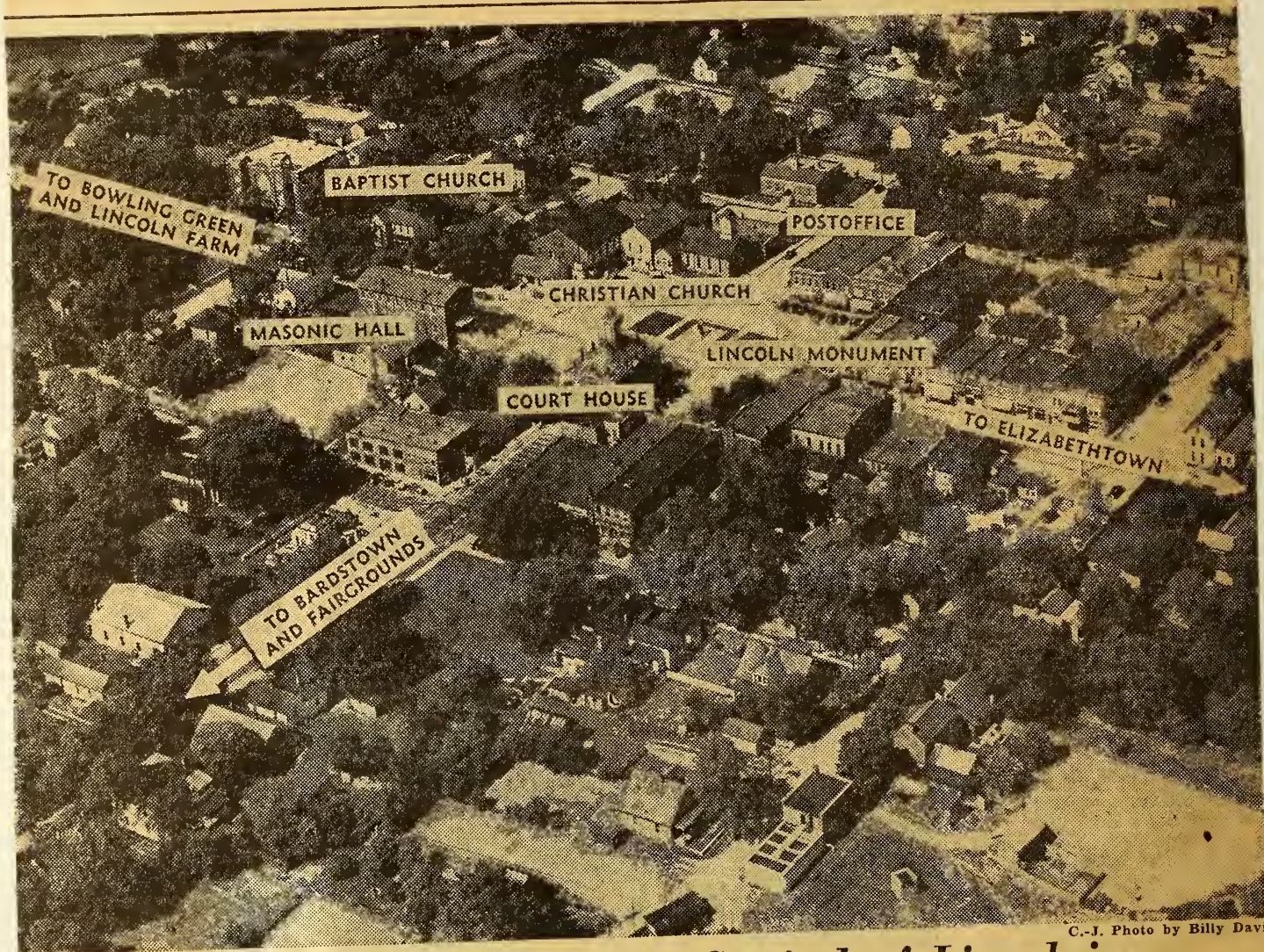
Nancy Hanks Lincoln came to Elizabethtown in the summer of 1806, as the bride of Thomas Lincoln. Here their first child, a girl, was born. Late in the year, 1808, the family moved to Nolin River, in what is now La Rue County, where Abraham Lincoln was born the following February. The Lincolns migrated to Indiana in 1816 and two years later Nancy passed away.

Sally Bush, who tradition states was an old sweetheart of Thomas Lincoln's, had married Daniel Johnston who died in 1816 leaving her with three small children. In the year 1819, on December 2, she received a visit from Thomas Lincoln of Indiana. He spoke of both having lost their partners, and proposed that they unite their fortunes, which mostly consisted of the orphaned children. Her hesitancy in accepting such a proposal, was caused by some financial obligations which she had been unable to meet. Mr. Lincoln learned the amounts and in a short time had paid every account. The marriage ceremony was then performed by Rev. George L. Rogers, a minister of the Methodist Church, and Thomas Lincoln took this new bride and her family back to his Indiana home.

Mr. S. H. Bush, a nephew of Sally Bush Lincoln, still lives in Elizabethtown. He states that the old Samuel Patton house recently razed was the house in which the wedding of his aunt and Thomas Lincoln took place. The inscription in the base of the old chim-

ney of this house proved its antiquity and established the fact that it was built in 1806. The Woman's Club of Elizabethtown is now in possession of the old timbers which comprised the roof of this old house, and the lumber is being worked into souvenirs, each piece containing one or more of the wooden pins used in construction. With each of these souvenirs the purchaser will receive a signed affidavit by Mr. Bush, a picture of the building with Mr. Bush in the foreground and a photograph of the marriage license of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston,





C.-J. Photo by Billy Davis

## Hodgenville Today—The Capital of Lincolniana

Back in 1789 Robert Hodgen erected a mill on his land near the confluence of three branches of the Nolin River in Kentucky. Then he built a tavern, at which many notables were entertained. He died in 1810 and soon after the settlement that had sprung up near his tavern was named for him.

The seat of LaRue County, Hodgenville today mostly is associated with Abraham Lincoln, for it was two and a half

miles from there that the Emancipator was born. In the Public Square is a bronze statue of Lincoln by Weiman.

Last week, LaRue Countians and visitors from afar attended the thirty-fourth annual LaRue County Fair, held on the outskirts of the city. This week more than 600 persons are expected to attend sessions of the Central Baptist Training Convention at the Baptist Church.



Des Moines Tribune  
August 18, 1959

# A Marker For a Grave

Nine Explorer Scouts from Des Moines Tuesday were in Hodgenville, Ky., where they were scheduled to place a stone on the unmarked grave of Abraham Lincoln's younger brother, Thomas.

The Scouts, members of Post 15, which is sponsored by the Grace Methodist Church, were to put a 30-pound Italian marble marker on the grave in Redmon Cemetery near Hodgenville, Ky.

The grave of Thomas, who died in 1815 at the age of 4, has been unmarked since 1933, when its original marker was destroyed accidentally.

The marking of the grave is the culmination of three years of study by the nine Scouts of Lincoln and the Civil War.

Earlier this year, when

they learned that Lincoln's brother's grave was unmarked, they decided to buy a stone and place it on the grave during a camping trip they were planning to make through southern Illinois and Kentucky—the land of Lincoln's youth.

The nine boys and two of their Scout advisers, Lloyd Knudson, of 1108 Thirty-sixth st., and William L. Kent, 3226 University ave., left Des Moines Sunday and will return Saturday.



Six Des Moines Explorer Scouts display the marker they were scheduled to place on grave of Abraham Lincoln's younger brother in Hodgenville, Ky., Tuesday. From left are John Knudson, 16, of 1108 Thirty-sixth st.; Dennis Flannigan, 16, of 1070 Thirty-fifth st.; Edward Miller, 14, of 4533 University ave.; Eric Harris, 15, of 930 Twenty-ninth st.; Paul Clark, 15, of 925 Twenty-ninth st., and Conrad Kent, 16, of 3226 University ave. Three other Scouts also making the trip are Herbert Lichtenberger, 14, of 2215 Drake Park ave.; James Allison, 14, of 1140 Twenty-fourth st.; and John Morrow, 14, of 4526 Kingman blvd.





A 474

The Dedication

Post 15 Des Moines Ia

2 PM Aug 18 1959.

A 475

Marker on Tommy Lincoln's grave

Placed- 8-18-1959

By post 15  
Des Moines Ia

32h V

Study showing activity in working  
to place the stone 8-18-1959

Post 15 Des Moines Ia

32h V







U.S. Army Photos

### ***Boone Nephew's Marker Down***

Time and vandals have desecrated the headstone on the grave of Enoch M. Boone, nephew of Daniel Boone. The stone has been broken, but the inscription is clear.



### ***Revolutionary War Vet's Grave***

This is the stone on the grave of William Withers. He served with the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War and died in 1809.





## Boone Cemetery One Of 90 On Fort Knox Land

Weeds and myrtle cover much of the historic Boone Cemetery on the Fort Knox Army reservation. In this cemetery, one of 90 on the sprawling post, are the graves of Enoch Boone, nephew of Daniel Boone, and William Withers, a cousin of General Stonewall Jackson. The cemetery is on the west side of Dixie Highway at the top of Muldraugh Hill.

## Fort Knox Is Last Resting Place For Some Of Area's Pioneers

By JIM MORRISSEY  
Louisville Times Staff Writer

Fort Knox is probably best known for its gold vault, and secondly as the Army's "university of armor." But the huge military reservation is also a place of cemeteries.

Some of Kentucky's illustrious pioneers are buried in the 90 cemeteries—mostly family plots—on the post.

Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, Bersheba Lincoln, and two of the 16th President's aunts are buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery near Crume Tank Range. Honest Abe's first cousin and playmate, Lucretia Brumfield Allstun, is buried in Bogard Cemetery near the 12th hole of Anderson Golf Course.

Boone Cemetery, overgrown with foliage and myrtle at the top of Muldraugh Hill, contains the grave of Enoch Boone, first white male child born in Kentucky and the nephew of Daniel Boone. Also buried there was William Withers, a Revolutionary War private and cousin of General Stonewall Jackson.

Only a small bit of rock is left of Grandma Lincoln's tombstone because of vandalism and the deterioration wrought by time.

Bersheba was married to

Capt. Abraham Lincoln, who was killed by Indians in a massacre at the family settlement near Morgan Station, Ky. Thomas, father of the President, was 8 years old at the time.

### Lived On Mill Creek

The family stayed at Morgan Station for a time after the massacre then moved to the William Brumfield farm on Mill Creek. Brumfield was the elder Lincoln's son-in-law.

Thomas Lincoln worked on the Brumfield farm until 1804, when he bought a farm also near Mill Creek, now on the Army reservation as is the old Brumfield farm.

Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks June 12, 1806, and took her to the 237-acre Mill Creek farm. Later he moved his family to Elizabethtown and then to Hodgenville, where Abe was born. The family moved on to a Knox Creek farm and finally to Indiana.

### Lived To About 110

The date of Grandma Lincoln's death is uncertain, but historians generally agree she died in 1836 at the age of 110.

Also buried in the Lincoln plot are Abe's aunts, Mary Crume and Nancy Brumfield. Nancy's husband, William

Brumfield, is buried beside her.

Mary Crume's headstone has another woman's inscription on the reverse side. According to legend, when Rebekah Mumford's widower, the Mill Creek stone carver, was out of suitable stone for Mary's grave, he removed the stone from his wife's grave and carved Mary's epitaph on the reverse side. The stone still stands on Mary Crume's grave.

### Born In Canebreak

Enoch Boone was born October 16, 1772, in a canebreak at Boonesboro while his mother was hiding from Indians attacking Fort Boonesboro.

Enoch, whose father, Squire Boone, accompanied his illustrious brother on his explorations into Kentucky, was raised at Boonesboro. Later he moved near Shelbyville where he married Nancy Galman. The couple had eight children. For many years Enoch lived on a farm in Meade County near West Point. He died there on February 8, 1862, at the age of 84.

William Withers served with the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War. He died in 1809. His son Benjamin married Eliza Boone, Enoch's daughter.

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# The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING  
HISTORICAL MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

June 20, 1962

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DAVIS W. EDWARDS

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

I was so glad to get your letter of  
June 15, and to know what project you are now en-  
gaged upon.

Yes, the iron road marker is still located  
near the Long Run bridge on U. S. Highway 60. The  
marker was copied by me on February 2, 1954, and reads  
as follows:

(Seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky)

Abraham Lincoln

Two miles northeast of here,  
Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of  
the President, was massacred by  
Indians in May, 1786, Long Run  
Baptist Church, standing on the  
Lincoln land grant, marks the  
traditional site of the pioneer's  
grave.

The original marker was erected by  
The Filson Club, 1937

Kentucky Department of Highways  
(101)



Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

-2-

6/20/62

The Lincoln statue in Louisville is located on the west side of the Louisville Free Public Library.

There is a marker, I understand, at Farmington, but I do not know just what is on it. I will try to find out and let you know.

Nor do I know whether Hughes Station has a marker.


I suggest that you write to Mr. W. A. Wentworth, Chairman, Kentucky Historical Highway Markers Program, Box 104, Frankfort, Kentucky. I think Mr. Wentworth can give you the information you desire with reference to the Hughes Station marker and perhaps the wording on all of the historical highway markers that mention the Lincolns.

So far as I know there is no book dealing with the iron road markers erected in Kentucky. We have a marker file, but it is incomplete. The Marker Committee has always operated out of the Kentucky Historical Society at Frankfort. They, no doubt, can help you materially.

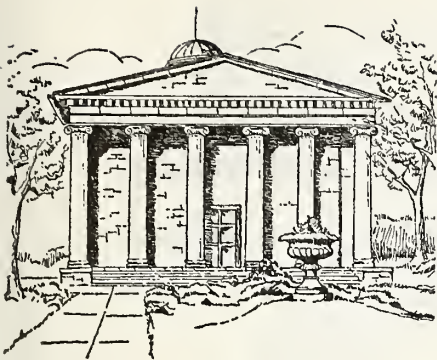
If there is anything else I can do, let me know.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

  
Richard H. Hill  
Secretary

RHH:td



OLD STATE HOUSE  
HOME OF THE SOCIETY

# KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Box 104

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

July 10, 1962

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*Secretary*  
GEORGE M. CHINN, *DIRECTOR*

R. Gerald McMurtry, Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Please accept our appologies for a delay in reply to your letter of June 21. We had hoped that we might secure the wording on all of the markers relative to Abraham Lincoln, however, marker #101 is in the process of being re-cast and we do not have the legend on it.

Marker #11 - Home of Mary Todd Lincoln, Fayette County reads:  
The Todd House

Home of Mary Todd Lincoln from 1832 to 1839.  
To this house in after years she brought  
Abraham Lincoln and their children  
Location - Lexington, 573 E. Main Street

Marker #12 - Birthplace - 1818, Mary Todd Lincoln, Fayette County  
Birthplace of Mary Todd Lincoln

On this site Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln  
was born December 13, 1818 and here spent her  
childhood. Location: Lexington, 501 Short Street

Marker #73 - Lincoln Family Trail, Breckinridge County

The Lincoln Family Trail

Abraham Lincoln, then a lad of 7,  
with other members of the Thomas  
Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River  
on a log raft ferry near here in 1816.  
Then leaving here moved to Indiana.  
Location - Cloverport on U.S. 60

Marker #120 - Lincoln Knob Creek Farm, Larue County

Knob Creek near Hodgenville boyhood home of  
Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). Lived on this 228 farm  
\*1811-1816) He wrote in 1860. "My earliest recollection  
of the Knob Creek place, a younger brother was born."

*ack*  
*7/13/62*

Marker #120 - Location - N. E. of Hodgenville on U.S. 31E, 7 miles north.

Marker #174 - Farmington Home of Speed, Jefferson County

Farmington

Historic residence completed by John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Abraham Lincoln was a guest here of his close friend Joshua Speed in 1841. Open to the Public.

Location - Louisville, Corner Bardstown Road and Wendell St.

One more is in the process of development on which the following will appear.

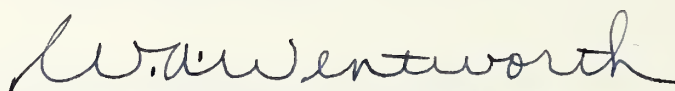
Lincoln Homestead State Park

Here, in the Washington Co. Court House, is marriage certificate, bond, and full account of wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks and gaiety of occasion. Seven miles north of here is Lincoln Homestead State Park, which marks site of Lincoln-Hanks marriage. They were married June 12, 1806, in old log house, by Rev. Jesse Head, a Methodist minister.

Location - On the Court House grounds, Springfield, Kentucky.

The installation will be before October 1, 1962.

Yours very truly,



W. A. Wentworth, Chairman  
Kentucky Historical Highway Markers Program

WAW:bct

P. S. No. 101 is marker pertaining to Abraham Lincoln's Grandfather, located near Eastwood, Jefferson County. Regret we do not have the inscription but will get it to you as soon as possible.





# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
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## THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF KENTUCKY

Over a period of many years *Lincoln Lore* has featured in different issues of the bulletin the historic sites, monuments, statues, libraries and museums connected with the Lincoln family in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Washington, D. C., as well as those associated with the president's ancestors in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Due to the fact that many of the early issues of *Lincoln Lore* which featured these historic places are out of print, and as a result of the discovery or re-development of additional historic Lincoln sites and the establishment of Lincoln libraries and museums, this issue is a new compilation of information pertaining to the Lincoln country of Kentucky.

Most of the Kentucky sites have been appropriately marked and adequately protected. Other sites have been inadequately marked or not marked at all. Some of the more obscure sites are located on private property accessible only by country roads. Lincoln history, it appears, was sometimes made off the beaten paths.

Those who are interested in a study of the Kentucky Lincolns will note that one important site is not mentioned in this compilation; namely, the location of the Thomas Lincoln cabin home in Elizabethtown. In this village Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks set up house-keeping and their first child, Sarah, Abraham Lincoln's only sister, was born on February 10, 1807. Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his history of Elizabethtown, written in 1869, stated that Thomas Lincoln erected a dwelling in Elizabethtown which was then still standing. All efforts to definitely locate the site, through documentary records, have ended in failure.

One of the finest private collections of Lincolniana in Kentucky, or in any other state for that matter, is the property of William H. Townsend, a Lexington attorney. This collection consists of hundreds of original letters, documents, manuscripts, photographs, lithographs, rare books, relics and oil paintings. This original material is

supplemented with a fine working library and its owner is considered one of the leading Lincoln authors and is a recognized authority on the subject. The Townsend collection is particularly outstanding for its many Mary Todd Lincoln letters and material concerning the Helms, Clays and other collateral and associate families. One outstanding item in the Townsend collection is an oil painting of Robert Smith Todd by Matthew H. Jouett. This major collection has not been treated in this compilation because it is privately owned and is not on exhibit.

All of the Lincoln sites, monuments, statues, libraries and museums of Kentucky are arranged alphabetically under counties. Consequently, this method of arrangement does not take into account the importance of the site, the chronology of events or the geographical location. However, enough information is given regarding each place to enable one to determine their geographical location by the use of road maps.

The editor is indebted to several people who assisted in the compilation of this information, namely: William H. Townsend, Lexington; J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Lexington; Sam W. Moore, Greensburg; Richard H. Hill, Louisville; John W. Muir, Bardstown; Mildred Hines, Berea; Eugenia Blackburn, Frankfort; W. A. Wentworth, Frankfort; Hugh O. Potter, Owensboro; Howard E. Gardner, Hodgenville; Nellie B. Hoke, Elizabethtown; Mary E. Carver, Louisville; Ernest L. Wright, Jr.; Hodgenville; Joe Gafford, Elizabethtown; Ross R. Hopkins, Hodgenville; Fred Howard, Hodgenville; Claude Williams, Hodgenville; and Louis A. Warren, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

### BELL COUNTY

#### Cumberland Gap (The Gateway to the West)

Cumberland Gap, one of America's historic gateways, is a gigantic notch in the last tier of barrier mountains westward where Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee now join. The Lincolns, the Hankses and the Todds were among the brave pioneer families who trudged through this majestic mountain pass enroute to the Kentucky country. Thomas Lincoln with his family passed through the gap as a child in 1782 and Nancy Hanks, a babe in arms, migrated with her family through this pass at a later but undetermined date. There are no markers attesting to these facts. Cumberland Gap, now a National Historical Park, is located on highway U. S. 25E about two miles south of Middleboro. About two miles south of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park at Harrogate, Tennessee, is Lincoln Memorial University (chartered 1897) named in honor of the sixteenth president. Here is located one of the major collections of Lincolniana in the nation.

### FAYETTE COUNTY

#### Farm of Thomas Lincoln (Uncle of Abraham Lincoln's Father)

Thomas Lincoln, the younger brother of Captain Abraham Lincoln, purchased in 1792 the 290 acre farm of Lewis Craig on the south fork of Elkhorn Creek. This farm, located five miles from the town of Lexington, was of the richest soil and was one of the most inviting spots in the Bluegrass region. Despite the Bluegrass farm, a comfortable home, slaves and a stillhouse, this great uncle of the sixteenth president suffered violent



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Entrance gate to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic site.



domestic conflicts with his wife and family and died in obscurity in the year 1820. Many members of his family eventually left Kentucky and were never acquainted with their distinguished kinsman. The Thomas Lincoln farm is located on highway 68 at the settlement of South Elkhorn, five miles south of Lexington, on the Lexington-Harrodsburg Pike.

#### Mary Todd's Birthplace (Lexington)

A Kentucky highway marker at 501 West Short Street calls attention to Mary Todd's birthplace with the following statement: "On this site Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln was born December 13, 1818 and here spent her childhood." The nine room residence, with an ell in the rear, was erected by Robert S. Todd about 1813, on a lot belonging to the Major Robert Parker estate, adjoining his mother-in-law's place on the east (Grandma Parker's house is still standing). The building was a two-story, red brick house fronting on West Short Street. In this house Robert S. Todd and Eliza Parker went to housekeeping and here most of their seven children were born. The old house was later acquired by the St. Paul Catholic Church as a residence for the priest. For a good many years Father Barry, undoubtedly the most outstanding of all the Lexington Catholic priests, lived here until the old house was torn down in the mid 1880's. The present rectory was built upon the birthplace site. The brick in the old Todd home, together with much of the woodwork, and several mantel pieces and perhaps the stairway were used to build the superintendent's lodge at the entrance to the Calvary Catholic Cemetery on West Main Street, just opposite the Lexington Cemetery.

#### Home of Mary Todd—1832 to 1839 (Lexington)

In early November, 1847, congressman-elect Lincoln, his wife and two children visited the home of his father-in-law, Robert Smith Todd, in Lexington enroute to Washington, D. C., for the opening session of Congress. The house located at 574 West Main Street is today privately owned by Sterling D. Coke and is used as Republican Headquarters. The old house has an ell and with it there are eight or nine rooms. There are two signs identifying the Mary Todd Lincoln house. One is a bronze plaque on the front of the building, and the other is a highway marker on a steel pipe set into the sidewalk. The house is not open to visitors. The November, 1847 Lexington visit was not Lincoln's first. On August 25, 1841, with Joshua Fry Speed, Lincoln visited Lexington to see Speed's fiancée. Lincoln's third visit to Lexington was made with his family during the week of October 18, 1849. Lincoln, undoubtedly, visited in other Todd homes in or around Lexington. "Ellerslie" (home of General Robert Todd and grandfather of Mrs. Lincoln), which was razed in 1947, stood about one and one-half miles east of Lexington, on the Richmond Pike, opposite the Lexington Water Company's No. 1 reservoir. "Buena Vista" (summer home of Robert S. Todd), which was razed in 1947 or 1948 was located eighteen miles from Lexington, on the Leestown Pike in Franklin County.

#### Ward's Academy (Lexington)

When Mary Todd was about eight years old she entered the academy of Dr. John Ward, which was located in a large two-story building (still standing) on the southwest corner of Market and Second Streets. The Rev. John Ward, was the rector of Christ Episcopal Church. At fourteen years of age Mary Todd finished the preparatory course at Dr. Ward's and was ready to enter the select boarding school of Madame Victorie LeClere Mentelle. The Mentelle school for girls was located on a rolling tract of woodland opposite "Ashland" on the Richmond Pike. Mary Todd was enrolled for four years in this institution. Ward's Academy is better known as Dr. Ridgely's House. It is a brick house, erected around 1800-1805. Dr. Frederick Ridgely was an early member of the Transylvania Medical Faculty and one of the founders of the Lexington Public Library. In recent years the building was remodeled and fitted as a medical clinic. Since December, 1958, the Christian Churches of Kentucky have made it their headquarters. There is no marker on or near the building. A small bronze plate on the front of the building states that it was the early home of Dr. Ridgely.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

#### Lincoln Statue (Frankfort)

On November 8, 1911, a standing Lincoln statue depicting "The President" by Adolph A. Weinman was unveiled in the rotunda of the State House of Kentucky at Frankfort. It was presented to the state by J. B. Speed of Louisville and President William Howard Taft gave the dedicatory address.

#### Old State House Museum (Kentucky State Historical Society)

The Lincoln material in the Old State House Museum in Frankfort is extremely limited. The collection consists of the fragmented breech of the cannon that was fired and exploded in Morganfield in 1840, when Lincoln delivered a campaign speech for William Henry Harrison, curios, photographs, Currier & Ives prints and oil portraits. The outstanding item of the collection is a Lincoln portrait by Charles Sneed Williams.

### GREEN COUNTY

#### Green County Court House (Greensburg)

Lincoln land transactions are recorded in the Green County Court House (the oldest court house west of the Alleghanies—built 1786). One such item dated September 5, 1798, indicates that one Thomas Lincoln entered a land grant of 100 acres of second rate land by virtue of his having improved the same agreeably to an act of the Assembly entitled, "An act for encouraging and granting relief to settlers" and etc. Warrant No. 1044 describes the land on the waters of Mathis Creek. Other court records pertain to many of Lincoln's contemporaries who settled in Sangamon County, Illinois.

#### Site of Nathaniel Owens Home

The eight-room brick house of Nathaniel Owens, the first high-sheriff of Green County and father of Mary Owens, Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois, sweetheart, was built in 1797. It was razed in 1959. In this home was held the school known as "Brush Creek Academy" where the Owens children and Mentor Graham (Lincoln's so-called tutor) received their formal education. The site is located between Hodgenville and Greensburg, one mile south of the community called Allendale and a half mile east of Kentucky highway 61. The site is approximately eight miles north of Greensburg.

#### School Where Mentor Graham Taught (Greensburg)

The original Greensburg School house where Mentor Graham (Lincoln's tutor) taught from 1818 to 1823 is believed to be a part of the building in which Monroe Shreves now lives. It is located two city blocks directly west of the public square of Greensburg.

### HANCOCK COUNTY

#### Squire Samuel W. Pate Home

Lincoln's first encounter with Kentucky law was near Lewisport at the home of Samuel W. Pate. The sixteen-year-old Lincoln, then a resident of Indiana operated a ferry boat on the Ohio River without a license. His competitors, John T. and Len Dill, seized him and brought him before the Justice of the Peace. After consulting the statutes, Lincoln was released by Squire Pate from the charge. The defendant had never ferried passengers across the Ohio River—only to the middle of the stream where they boarded steamboats. There is no documentary evidence attesting to this incident in Lincoln's life. The site is not marked. The Pate farm is owned by Eli Gregory. The home is located on highway 334 about fourteen miles from Hawesville.

#### Thompson's Ferry Site

Hugh Thompson's ferry opposite Troy, Indiana, was the point on the Ohio River where the Lincoln family left Kentucky soil for Indiana. This crossing of the Ohio was in the late fall of 1816. Thomas Lincoln's family at that time consisted of his wife, and two children, Sarah and Abraham. A marker attesting to these facts of the Lincoln migration would be most appropriate.

### HARDIN COUNTY

#### Mill Creek Farm

On September 2, 1803, Thomas Lincoln purchased a 238 acre farm on Mill Creek. The purchase price was 118 pounds (current money of Virginia). After this purchase Lincoln's father resided from time to time on the



Department of the Interior. The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is located approximately three miles south of Hodgenville on U.S. highways 31E and 61.

#### Reception Center (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site)

A reception center in the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site was constructed in 1959 and it contains maps, charts, dioramas, and relics pertaining to the Lincoln birthplace farm. A lecture room is also provided with a motion picture projection of the pertinent facts pertaining to this historic site. The most valuable relic on display is the Thomas Lincoln family Bible.

#### The Birthplace Memorial Building

The memorial building housing the Lincoln cabin which is situated on the 116½ acre tract which now comprises the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site was designed by John Russell Pope and built of Connecticut pink granite and Tennessee marble. It was constructed by the Lincoln Farm Association in the years 1909-1911 through funds raised by popular subscription. The cornerstone of the building was laid by President Theodore Roosevelt on February 12, 1909. The chief address at the dedication of the building was delivered by President William Howard Taft on November 9, 1911. When the park with all its improvements was deeded to the United States, President Woodrow Wilson made the acceptance speech, in behalf of the government and of the people of the United States on Labor Day, 1916.

#### The Birthplace Cabin

The log cabin in the memorial building situated in the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is a traditional structure. It is impossible to say with certainty that it is the original cabin. The history of the cabin from 1861 to the present day is fairly clear but its history prior to 1861 is obscure and not conclusive. The precise location of the cabin is also a matter of conjecture. There is good reason to believe that the cabin was located at the foot of the knoll where the memorial building is located, only a short distance from the sinking spring. The general location of the birthplace cabin, however, is without question. Lincoln made several statements concerning the place of his birth. On June 4, 1860, Lincoln wrote Samuel Haycraft that, "As my parents have told me, I was born on Nolin, very much nearer Hodgen's mill than the Knob Creek place is." While sponsors of about fifteen rival birthplaces have set forth claims the statement made by Lincoln, in an autobiographical sketch for Hicks (June 14, 1860), namely: "I was born February 12, 1809, in then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the now recently formed county of Larue, a mile, or a mile and a half (actually three miles) from where Hodgenville now is . . . It was on Nolin Creek," should end for all time the controversy regarding the place of the sixteenth president's birth.

#### The Corner Oak

As early as 1805 this giant white oak tree served to mark the corner of the 348½ acre tract of land known as the Sinking Spring or Rock Spring farm which Thomas Lincoln purchased on December 12, 1808. This is the farm where Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 and this is the only tree now living which looked down upon the birth of the sixteenth president. The tree is six feet in diameter, about ninety feet tall and has a spread of one hundred and fifteen feet. It is estimated to be three hundred years old.

#### The Sinking Spring

In pioneer days the Lincoln birthplace farm spring was known for miles around as Sinking Spring, Cave Spring and Rock Spring. Over the centuries its continual flow has created a lime stone cave, about seven feet high, seven feet wide and fifteen feet long. Before the improvements were made in the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site it overhung with branches of huge trees and its banks were covered with wild vines. It is located in close proximity to the boundary oak tree.

#### "The Bigg Hill"

Thomas Lincoln was appointed a county surveyor on May 13, 1816, to oversee that part of the road leading "from Nolin to Bardstown, which lies between the Bigg (Muldraugh's) Hill and the Rolling Fork." The order of appointment also designated certain men who were to "assist said Lincoln in keeping the said road in repair." The records reveal that the road was kept open under Lincoln's supervision. If a tablet or marker should be erected at the foot of the "Bigg Hill" (highway 31E) it would contribute much to the prestige of Lincoln's father.

#### Stone Spring House

The stone spring house on the Gustavus Ovesen farm (now owned by Claude Williams), two miles east of Hodgenville on the Bardstown Road (Route 31E), is the only Kentucky building now standing which Lincoln as a boy remembered. In 1863, a Hodgenville resident, Dr. Jesse Rodman, visited President Lincoln in the White House. Lincoln told Rodman that the two objects which were most impressed upon his memory were "a big tree somewhere on Nolin (perhaps a giant oak near Buffalo) and the stone house." This building was constructed in 1800 and its walls are thick enough to be used for a fortification.

#### Knob Creek Farm

The 238 acre Knob Creek farm was the Kentucky home which Abraham Lincoln remembered when he was interviewed about his childhood days. In a letter addressed to Samuel Haycraft, June 4, 1860, Lincoln wrote: "The place on Knob Creek . . . I remember very well . . . My earliest recollection . . . is of the Knob Creek place." Thomas Lincoln and his family moved to this farm in 1811, when Abraham was but two years old and remained there until the late fall of 1816. Dr. Jesse Rodman, a resident of Hodgenville visited Lincoln in the White House in 1863 and the president made this statement: "I remember that old home very well. Our farm was composed of three fields. It lay in the valley surrounded by high hills and deep gorges. Sometimes when there came a big rain in the hills the water would come down through the gorges and spread all over the farm. The last thing that I remember doing there was one Saturday afternoon; the other boys planted the corn in what we called the big field; it contained seven acres and I dropped the pumpkin seed. I dropped two seeds every other hill and every other row. The next Saturday morning there came a big rain in the hills, it did not rain a drop in the valley but the water coming down through the gorges washed ground, corn, pumpkin seed and all clear off the field." It is believed that the Knob Creek farm was assigned to Thomas Lincoln for a money consideration but before a deed could be made the title was in litigation. A portion of the farm, the tract which was most likely the cabin site, is the property of Chester Howard. This is the only tract of land on which Abraham Lincoln lived for any considerable span of time which has not become in part at least, a national shrine. The present owner in 1931 constructed a typical log cabin on the traditional site of the Lincoln home. This important historic site is located seven miles northeast of Hodgenville on highway 31E.

#### Redmond Burial Ground

Since the fall of 1933 a grave in the Redmond family cemetery, in the Knob Creek section of Larue County, has been identified as being that of Thomas Lincoln, Jr., the infant brother of Abraham Lincoln. A stone over the grave with the inscription "T. L." was unearthed, and evidence points strongly to the fact that it marks the grave of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln's youngest child. The original stone is the property of W. G. Miller. There is now a new marker on the grave placed there by the Boy Scouts of Des Moines, Iowa. The cemetery, almost inaccessible by car, is located seven miles north of Hodgenville. From highway 31E take highway 84 and at the first dirt road to the left drive one and one-half miles.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
The birthplace memorial building in which is enshrined the traditional Lincoln cabin.

farm two or three years before his marriage to Nancy Hanks. In fact, it appears that Thomas and Nancy resided on the Mill Creek farm after their marriage until the bridegroom could complete a cabin in Elizabethtown. The original Mill Creek cabin is no longer in existence but its location is established and some of the original foundation and chimney stones may have been preserved. On October 27, 1814 Lincoln sold the Mill Creek farm of 200 acres (a mistake was made in a deed call by either the surveyor or county clerk) for 100 pounds. The Mill Creek farm, now broken up into several tracts, is located on highway 434, about six miles north of Elizabethtown.

#### Mill Creek Cemetery

The widow of the president's paternal grandfather, Bathsheba Lincoln died while residing at the home of her daughter, Nancy Lincoln Brumfield and is buried in the Mill Creek Cemetery. Her grave has been identified by descendants of Mrs. Brumfield, whose burial is marked with a grave stone properly inscribed. The small stone on the grave of the widow Lincoln bears no inscription. On May 16, 1960, the State of Illinois presented to the Hardin County Historical Society for the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky an imposing memorial marker honoring Bathsheba Lincoln. This cemetery located twelve miles north of Elizabethtown (route no. 31W) is now within the Fort Knox Military Reservation. Permission to visit the cemetery should be secured from the military authorities.

#### Hardin County Court House (Elizabethtown)

The Hardin County Court House located in the center of the public square at Elizabethtown is a repository for many court documents relative to the Lincoln family. Some of the early documents bearing the signature of Thomas Lincoln, the father of the sixteenth president are on exhibit in the county clerk's office. These records are the chief Kentucky source of documentary Lincolniana.

#### Haycraft's Mill and Raceway Site (Elizabethtown)

When Thomas Lincoln was old enough to work he left his family, and his first job of any importance, after enlisting in an expedition to fight the Indians, was the building of a mill and raceway in Elizabethtown for Samuel Haycraft, Sr. Records indicate that young Lincoln was in Hardin County as early as July, 1796 and was earning three shillings a day at the mill-site. The incomplete records of Haycraft indicate that the minimum sum received for this labor was twenty-six (Virginia) pounds. For many years that portion of Central Avenue leading off directly from Elizabethtown's main thoroughfare (highway 31W) was called Race Street. An appropriate marker in the vicinity of Valley Creek and Central Avenue (Race Street) giving the information pertaining to Thomas Lincoln's labor would reflect credit to Lincoln's father.

#### Patton House Site (Elizabethtown)

The Samuel Patton house in Elizabethtown, in which the father of the president married Sarah Bush Johnston on December 2, 1819 was razed in 1922 and a large brick garage building was erected upon the site. The new building known as Marion's Garage, located on North Main Street (just off the public square) is appropriately marked with a bronze tablet. The house in the year 1819 belonged to the Hon. Benjamin Chapeze, a distinguished lawyer and member of the Elizabethtown bar, who was likely residing there with his family at the time of the Lincoln-Johnston nuptials.

#### Site of Sarah Bush Johnston Cabin (Elizabethtown)

Lincoln's step-mother, the widow of Daniel Johnston (married Thomas Lincoln on December 2, 1819) in 1818 purchased from Samuel Haycraft a small plot of land, just over the Haycraft line (the property west of the line was developed by Andrew Hynes) which was then outside the city limits of Elizabethtown. The deed to this lot is recorded in Deed Book G, page 213 in the files of the Hardin County Court. The price paid for the tract was \$25. This lot had a small cabin erected upon it in which she lived. While living in this home she accepted the marriage proposal of Thomas Lincoln. While residing in Indiana in the year 1829, Sarah disposed of her Elizabethtown property by sale to Thomas J. Wathen (Deed Book L, page 219) for the sum of \$125. This transaction was her last contact with the community of her birth. The site of the cabin was in the rear of lot 26 on Main Street between Poplar Street and Dixie Avenue (highway 31W). No marker has ever been erected to identify this site.

#### Grave of Ben Hardin Helm (Elizabethtown)

Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm, the son of Kentucky governor, John Larue Helm and brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln (he married Emily Todd, a half-sister of Mrs. Lincoln) lies buried in an Elizabethtown cemetery. On September 20, 1863 Brigadier General Helm, Commander of the Orphan Brigade, fell mortally wounded on the battlefield of Chickamauga. He was buried in Atlanta but on September 19, 1884 his remains were reinterred in the family burying ground at the Helm place, about one mile north of the Elizabethtown public square on highway 31W. Helm was born at "Edgewood" the home of Senator Ben Hardin, his maternal grandfather, located at the head of Fifth Street in Bardstow.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY

#### Jefferson County Court House (Louisville)

The Jefferson County Court House located between Fifth and Sixth and Jefferson and Market Streets is a repository for many court documents relative to the land holdings of Captain Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the sixteenth president.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
The traditional Lincoln cabin enshrined within the memorial building.



### Long Run Cemetery

The Long Run Baptist Church burial ground which was once within Captain Abraham Lincoln's 400 acre tract contains the unmarked remains of the president's grandfather. Only the foundation of the original church remains. Jefferson County has purchased the Long Run ruins (third church burned December 24, 1960) and will preserve them as a historic shrine. The site is located about eighteen miles from Louisville where the Louisville-Lexington Road crosses the stream known as Long Run. A highway marker located at the point where the Long Run Road enters U. S. highway 60 bears the following inscription: "Two miles northeast of here Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President, was massacred by Indians in May, 1786. Long Run Baptist Church, standing on the Lincoln land grant, marks the traditional site of the pioneer's grave." Recent excavations have revealed that Captain Abraham Lincoln's remains were not interred under the Long Run Baptist Church building.

### Site of Hughes Station

The site of Hughes Station is important in the Lincoln story as the president's grandfather was killed by the Indians near that settlement in 1786. This fort was located adjacent to the Long Run Cemetery where Captain Abraham Lincoln was buried. The site of Captain Lincoln's cabin and spring in the vicinity of Hughes Station has been located, however, because of the danger of Indian attack it is believed that the Lincoln family resided in the fort. A marker at this site would be of interest to Kentucky historians as well as those who delve into the facts of Lincoln's life.

### Farmington (Louisville)

In the month of August, 1841, Lincoln visited his friend, Joshua Fry Speed, and spent several days with him. "Farmington," the plantation home of John and Lucy Speed, has been restored by the Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., and the guest room where Lincoln stayed has been identified. The house was built in 1810 from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson, and it was formerly opened to the public in April, 1959. This was also the home of James Speed, who served as attorney-general in Lincoln's cabinet. "Farmington" is open every day except Mondays, Christmas and New Year's Day. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. "Farmington" is located just off the intersection of the Bardstown Road with the Watterson Expressway.

### Lincoln Statue (Louisville)

The replica heroic bronze statue of Lincoln which might be called "The Candidate" by George Gray Barnard was unveiled October 26, 1922 and stands on the west side of the Louisville Free Public Library. The original statue stands in Lytle Park, East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. It was unveiled on March 31, 1917. A replica of the same statue is also located in Platt Field Park in Manchester, England. It was dedicated in the fall of 1919. When this statue was first unveiled it created a bitter controversy and it was called by many critics "a calamity in bronze." It was the sculptor's idea "to depict a humble man of the soil, the worker and the thinker as well as the soulful Lincoln."

### The J. B. Speed Art Museum (Louisville)

Two major Lincoln items are on display in the J. B. Speed Art Museum; namely, a Thomas Lincoln corner cupboard and an inscribed photograph. The cupboard was acquired through J. O. Dever of Summit, Hardin County, Kentucky, whose family owned it for something like a century or more. Various affidavits certify the authenticity of the piece. It is made of black walnut and put together with wooden pegs. Inside the upper part of the hutch appears the initials T. L. and the date 1814. The photograph of Abraham Lincoln is inscribed to Mrs. Lucy G. Speed, the mother of Joshua F. Speed whom Lincoln visited in August and September, 1841. The inscription follows: "For Mrs. Lucy G. Speed, from whose pious hand I accepted the present of an Oxford Bible twenty years ago. A. Lincoln. Washington, D. C. October 3, 1861." Other items include miscellaneous Lincoln relics, statuary, letters and manuscripts, and the 1862 oil painting of Lincoln by Nicola Marschall. An excellent oil

portrait of Lincoln's Attorney General, James Speed by Benoni Irwin (1840-1896) is also on exhibit. The museum is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. It is closed on Mondays and every day during the months of August and September. The museum is located at 2035 South Third Street.

### LARUE COUNTY

#### Larue County Court House (Hodgenville)

In 1843 Larue County was formed out of a part of Hardin County and all the land transactions after that date relative to the Sinking Spring (birthplace) and Knob Creek farms are on record in this court house. The land records relative to the Sinking Spring farm have been invaluable to the National Park Service in establishing the boundaries of the original Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

#### Lincoln Statue (Hodgenville)

In the public square of the county seat town of Hodgenville is the seated statue of President Lincoln by Adolph A. Weinman. It was financed by Hodgenville and Larue County citizens with the help of Robert Lincoln, the president's oldest son. The major portion of the cost, however, was obtained through appropriations made by the General Assembly of Kentucky and by Congress. The statue was unveiled on May 31, 1909. A replica of this bronze statue stands before the Administration Building, on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. It was dedicated on June 24, 1919.

#### Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Thomas Lincoln purchased the Sinking Spring farm located on the South Fork of Nolin River on December 12, 1808. He paid \$200 for the 300 acre (an 1837 survey revealed 348½ acres) tract. One hundred sixteen and one-half acres of this land (nearly 100 acres of which were included in the original Lincoln farm) comprises the present Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. On September 8, 1959, the name of the park was changed to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. This area contains the memorial building, the site of the traditional Lincoln birthplace, the sinking spring and the ancient boundary oak tree. This farm was deeded to the United States Government in 1916 by the Lincoln Farm Association and since 1933 has been administered by the National Park Service of the



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
The sinking spring on the Lincoln birthplace farm located in close proximity to the boundary oak tree.



## LINCOLN COUNTY

### Lincoln County Court House (Stanford)

The Lincoln County Court House (named for Benjamin Lincoln, a Revolutionary War general) is a repository for several land office treasury warrants (numbers 3333 and 3335) which provide for a survey of "800 acres of land in the County of Lincoln, lying on Green River about six miles below Green River Lick" for Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the president. After the division in 1806 of Lincoln County, the former lands of Abraham Lincoln were thrown into Casey County. The land was later sold to Christopher Riffe on October 12, 1784. Other records pertaining to Grandfather Lincoln's land transactions are to be found in this court house.

## MADISON COUNTY

### Berea College Library (Berea)

In a separate alcove, in the Berea College Library, a Lincoln library is maintained, along with a collection of photographs, paintings and manuscripts. One original letter written at Springfield, Illinois, by Lincoln to William Dickson, dated July 26, 1851, is on exhibit. Perhaps the most outstanding item in the Berea collection is the original oil painting "The Boy Lincoln," by Eastman Johnson.

## MERCER COUNTY

### Lincoln Marriage Temple (Harrodsburg)

The Lincoln cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married, originally located on the Richard Berry farm at Beechland in Washington County, is housed in a Lincoln Marriage Temple at Harrodsburg in the Pioneer Memorial State Park. The cabin stands enshrined just outside the stockade of the reproduced Old Fort Harrod. The Marriage Temple was dedicated on June 12, 1931. The dedicatory address was delivered by William Nuckles Doak, Secretary of Labor. The temple was a gift of Mrs. Edmund Burke Ball, of Muncie, Indiana, to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in memory of her parents, the Reverend Marion Crosley and M. Adelia Swift Crosley. Harrodsburg is located on highways 68 and 127.

### Lincoln Room in Mansion Museum (Harrodsburg)

In close connection and forming a part of the Lincoln Marriage Temple shrine is the Lincoln Room located in the Mansion Museum of the Pioneer Memorial State Park. This collection of books, relics, pictures, and documents gives Harrodsburg the distinction of having one of the first Lincoln library-museums in the state.

### Mercer County Court House (Harrodsburg)

The Mercer County Court House is a repository for many court documents relative to Lincoln's maternal ancestry, namely; the Hanks, Sparrows and related families. The most important document in the court records is the controversial "wid-oy" Lucey Hanks affirmation dated April 26, 1790. The point of contention is that if Lucy Hanks was a widow then Nancy Hanks was of legitimate birth.

## NELSON COUNTY

### Site of Lincoln Log Cabin School House (Athertonville)

It is possible to locate the site of the first log school building which Lincoln attended as a boy. Documentary evidence is available which will definitely locate the school building as early as 1800. One important court order specified that "The road from Rolling Fork was to intersect the old road near a school house on Knob Creek." This historic site is located two miles north of the Knob Creek farm on highway 31E. On the exact site is a two car garage bearing a Boy Scout sign, "Blab Blab School Site."

### Nelson County Court House (Bardstown)

The Nelson County Court House located in the center of the public square at Bardstown is a repository for many court documents relative to the Lincoln and Hanks families. One exceptionally important document which is filed in the county clerk's office is an appraisal of the estate of Captain Abraham Lincoln dated 1789.

## Monastic Cemetery of our Lady of Gethsemani

Zachariah Riney, Lincoln's first school teacher died in the year 1859. The location of his grave is unknown, but his remains were interred in the graveyard (a section reserved for the laity) of the Trappist Brotherhood within the monastery enclosure. It would seem fitting to erect a marker in this cemetery attesting to the fact that Zachariah Riney first started Abraham Lincoln on the way to intellectual achievement. The Monastic Cemetery of Our Lady of Gethsemani is twelve miles south of Bardstown. From highway 31E take highway 247, a distance of three miles.

## UNION COUNTY

### Morganfield

Abraham Lincoln made one political speech in Kentucky in 1840 during the presidential campaign of Harrison and Tyler. The date is believed to be September 8. While in Morganfield, Lincoln and a Whig delegation from Shawneetown, Illinois, were guests of George W. Riddell. The site of the hotel where Lincoln was entertained at dinner and the place where he made the campaign speech should be commemorated with bronze markers. The breech of the exploded cannon which was fired at this political meeting is now on display in the Old State House Museum at Frankfort.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

### Lincoln Homestead State Park

The Lincoln Homestead State Park was dedicated in 1934, (re-dedicated in 1943) and contains among other things a replica of the Widow Lincoln home and the original Francis Berry home. One of the most interesting things to be noted in this park is the original spring from which the Lincolns got their water. This state park is located six miles north of Springfield, off Kentucky highway 55.

### Washington County Court House (Springfield)

The Washington County Court House located at the intersection of Main and Cross Streets in Springfield is a repository for several valuable early records pertaining to the Lincoln family. In the county clerk's office is the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln, signed by him and Richard Berry, Jr., and the minister's certificate by the Reverend Jesse Head, who performed the ceremony on June 12, 1806. Other records include tax lists and original signatures and marriage bonds of other members of the Lincoln family.

### Berry Home Site

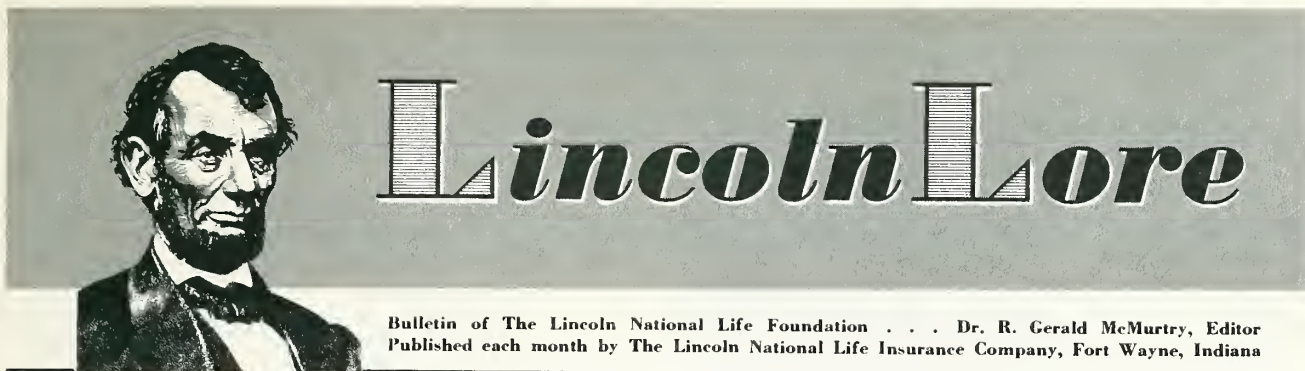
The actual site of the Richard Berry cabin where the Lincoln marriage ceremony was performed on June 12, 1806 is without a marker. The original cabin has been removed and preserved at Harrodsburg. Such a tablet or marker would also serve the double purpose of identifying the early home of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother. This historic site is situated only a short distance from the Lincoln Homestead State Park.



*From the Lincoln National Life Foundation*

A replica log cabin on the traditional site of the Knob Creek Lincoln farm.





Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1596

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February, 1971

## Lincoln Historical Highway Markers In Kentucky

A paper bound book entitled *Guide to Kentucky Historical Markers* was published by the Kentucky Historical Society in 1969. It lists 976 markers of which twenty-eight deal with Abraham Lincoln (some markers mention him only by name), his family, collateral relatives, in-laws and associates. The index reveals that the surnames of Lincoln and Boone appear on more markers than those of any other noted families in Kentucky.

Kentucky's program of marking historical sites or incidents began in August, 1949. In March, 1962, Governor Bert T. Combs allocated state funds to broaden the program and assigned it to the Kentucky Historical Society. Today under the direction of Walter Allerton Wentworth the project is moving forward with remarkable accuracy and speed.

Although numbers appear on the markers to assist readers with a quick reference when using the guide, they are not consecutive which indicates that earlier markers have been abandoned. The texts of the Lincoln markers in this compilation for *Lincoln Lore* have been arranged alphabetically according to Kentucky counties. Since one or two have very little interest for the Lincoln student, the wording on the reverse side has been deleted. The texts of the two markers pertaining to Lincoln County are included because genealogists believe that President Abraham Lincoln and General Benjamin Lincoln may have had a common progenitor back in England.

The texts of the twenty eight markers, including a few statements with which the editor does not entirely agree, follow:

**1003**

**SHELTER FOR LINCOLNS**  
(E. side Ky. 261, Hardinsburg,  
S. city limits, Breckinridge Co.)

In the autumn of 1816 the family of Abraham Lincoln, then 7 years old, migrating to Indiana, rested and recuperated for about three weeks in a cabin that stood here. Local residents gave them food. Lincoln route in Kentucky started near Hodgenville and went through Elizabethtown, Vine Grove, Harned, here to Cloverport, river ferry. Lincolns traveled by ox-cart.

**73**

**LINCOLN FAMILY TRAIL**  
(Cloverport, US 60, Breckinridge Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, then a lad of 7, with other members of the Thomas Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River on a log raft ferry near here in 1816. The Lincolns were moving to Indiana.

**552**

**JOSEPH HOLT**  
(US 60, 3 mi. E., Cloverport,  
Breckinridge Co.)

Six miles to the north are birth place and grave of Joseph Holt, 1807-1896. He was Commissioner of Patents, Postmaster General and Secretary of War in Buchanan's Administration, 1857-1861. Lincoln made him Judge Advocate General of the Union Army, 1862. Holt

prosecuted conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln, 1865. He retired as Judge Advocate, 1875.

**885**

**LINCOLN'S FATHER HERE**  
(Burkesville Courtyard, Ky. 61, 90,  
Cumberland Co.)

Thomas Lincoln made claim for land in Cumberland County in May, 1801. In Jan., 1802 and again in 1804 he was appointed constable. On Sept. 5, 1802, he was commissioned ensign in Cornstalk Militia of Cumberland County. Returned to Washington County. Married Nancy Hanks 1806. To this union Pres. Lincoln was born. Thomas brought to Ky. from Va. as a child, 1782.

**70**

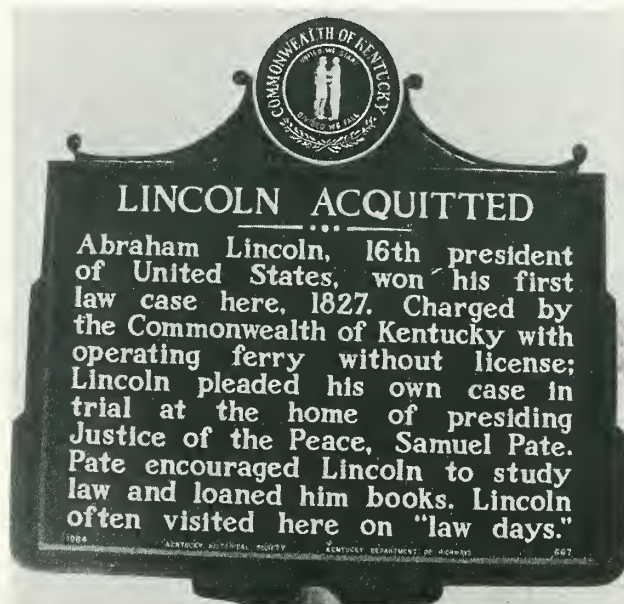
**CAMP DICK ROBINSON**  
(7 mi. NW of Lancaster,  
US 27, Garrard Co.)

Here in 1861 under authority issued by President Abraham Lincoln, General William Nelson organized the first camp in Kentucky for enlistment of Federal troops in the War Between the States.

**1082**

**UNIQUE FATHER AND SON**  
(Greensburg, US 68 opposite  
"Old Courthouse," Green Co.)

Reuben Creel, Greensburg native, appointed by Lincoln as consul from U.S. to Chihuahua, Mexico, 1863.



Photograph courtesy of W. A. Wentworth,  
Chairman of Kentucky Highway Marker Program,  
Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Highway Marker No. 667 located on Ky. 334, three miles west of Hawesville, in Hancock County.





Photograph courtesy of W. A. Wentworth,  
Chairman of Kentucky Highway Marker Program,  
Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The Pate house (to which the highway marker refers) in Hancock County, Kentucky, where Lincoln was tried before a Justice of the Peace for allegedly operating a ferry across the Ohio River without a license.

Served until 1866. His son Enrique C., in turn, served as ambassador from Mexico to U. S., 1907-09. Reuben went to Mexico with Gen. Ward, Greensburg native, serving as his interpreter during Mexican War. Remained after war. Early home stands here. (Reverse not included)

# 719

**LINCOLN'S MENTOR**  
(Ky. 61, 8 mi. N.  
Greensburg, Green Co.)

Three miles west, birthplace of Mentor Graham, 1800-86, "The Man Who Taught Lincoln." Sixty years a teacher. Green County 1818-26. After Illinois voted down slavery, moved to New Salem, 1826. There, from 1831-37, as tutor and friend, he had incalculable influence on Abraham Lincoln, his public life. Graham died at 86, South Dakota. Re-buried at New Salem, Ill., 1933.

# 846

**LINCOLN'S LAW PARTNER**  
(Greensburg, old courthouse  
lawn, Green Co.)

Birthplace of William H. Herndon, 1818. Family moved to Illinois, 1820. An anti-slavery advocate and partner with Abraham Lincoln in practice of law, 1844-61. Herndon, Mayor of Springfield; State Bank examiner. After Lincoln's death, devoted life to biography of his friend. Wrote "Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life," 1889. Died 1891, Springfield, Ill.

# 667

**LINCOLN ACQUITTED**  
(Ky. 334, 3 mi. W.  
Hawesville, Hancock Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of United States, won his first law case here, 1827. Charged by the Commonwealth of Kentucky with operating ferry without license; Lincoln pleaded his own case in trial at the home of presiding Justice of the Peace, Samuel Pate. Pate encouraged Lincoln to study law and loaned him books. Lincoln often visited here on "law days."

# 932

**LINCOLN-HAYCRAFT  
MEMORIAL BRIDGE, 1936**  
(Elizabethtown at bridge, Hardin Co.)

Here along Severn's Valley Creek Samuel Haycraft, Sr. built mill raceway in 1796. Thomas Lincoln, father of Pres. Lincoln, employed in building it, received his first monetary wages when about 21 years of age. Abraham Lincoln, age 7, with his family on way to Indiana in 1816, crossed this creek about here and went thru Elizabethtown.

# 858

**ROUTE OF LINCOLNS**  
(Vine Grove, Ky. 144, Hardin Co.)

In the autumn of 1816, Abraham Lincoln's family traveled this old pioneer trail through Vine Grove, established in 1802, when migrating from Knob Hill farm, Larue County, Kentucky, to Spencer County, Indiana.

# 833

**HELM CEMETERY**  
(Elizabethtown, US 31-W, Jct.  
with Ky. 447, Hardin Co.)

This pioneer cemetery includes the graves of John LaRue Helm, who served two incomplete terms as Governor of Kentucky, and his son, Confederate Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who fell at battle of Chicamauga, September 20, 1863. Gen. Helm and Abraham Lincoln married half-sisters, Emilie and Mary Todd, the daughters of Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky.

# 136

**LEXINGTON**  
(Lexington, North Limestone,  
US 27, 68, Fayette Co.)

Settled by Robert Patterson and companions in 1779. Major frontier town. Home of Henry Clay, Mary Todd, John C. Breckinridge; and of Transylvania College, College of the Bible, and University of Kentucky.

# 1001

**ELLERSLIE**  
(US 25 & 421, Lexington Reservoir,  
Fayette Co.)

The home which stood on this site from 1787 to 1947 was built by Levi Todd (1756-1807), who named it for his ancestral village in Scotland. He was one of a party of hunters who named Lexington in 1775; first Fayette County clerk; aide to George Rogers Clark, 1779, Kaskaskia Expedition; Maj., Battle Blue Licks, trustee, Transylvania; grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln.

# 12

**MARY TODD LINCOLN**  
(501 Short St., Lexington,  
Fayette Co.)

On this site Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln, was born Dec. 13, 1818, and here spent her childhood.

# 11

**TODD HOUSE**  
(573 W. Main St., Lexington,  
Fayette Co.)

Home of Mary Todd Lincoln from 1832 to 1839. To this house in after years she brought Abraham Lincoln and their children.

# 945

**ARCHITECT'S SHRYOCK**  
(149 North Broadway,  
Lexington, Fayette Co.)

"Best known surname in Kentucky architecture is Shryock." Family home, erected by Matthias Shryock (1774-1833), here. Designed first Episcopal church in city, 1814 and Mary Todd Lincoln home on W. Main. Son, Cincinnati, born here, 1816. First Presbyterian Church, built 1872, considered his best. Also designed many homes. Died, 1888. Both buried in Lexington. (Reverse not included)

# 101

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**  
(1 mi. E. of Eastwood,  
US 60, 460, Jefferson Co.)

Two miles northeast of here Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was massacred by Indians in May 1786. Long Run Baptist Church, standing on the Lincoln land grant, marks the traditional site of the pioneers grave.

The original marker was erected by The Filson Club 1937.



174

**FARMINGTON**  
(Bardstown Rd., Wendell St.,  
Louisville, Jefferson Co.)

Historic residence completed by John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Abraham Lincoln was a guest here of his close friend Joshua Speed in 1841. Open to the public.

120

**LINCOLN KNOB CREEK FARM**  
(6 mi. NE Hodgenville,  
US 31E, Larue Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, (1809-1865) lived on this 228 acre farm, 1811-1816. He wrote in 1860 "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place." A younger brother was born here.

827

**LINCOLN'S PLAYMATE**  
(Pleasant Grove Baptist Church,  
Ky. 84 Larue Co.)

To the west, in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, is the grave of Austin Gollaher, 1806-98. Lincoln, while president, once said, "I would rather see (him) than any man living." They were schoolmates and playmates when the Lincoln family lived in this area, 1813 to 1816. Gollaher is credited with rescuing Lincoln from flooded waters of Knob Creek.

774

**COUNTY NAMED, 1780**  
(Stanford Courtyard,  
US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

For Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810. Born Mass. In War of Revolution took Mass. Regts. to reinforce New York, 1776; at Saratoga, 1777, cut Burgoyne's communications with Canada; 1778, command of Southern Dept. Commissioned by Washington to receive sword of Cornwallis at British surrender, Yorktown, 1781. Sec. of War, 1781-84. Led forces that quelled Shay's Rebellion.

860

**LINCOLN COUNTY**  
(Stanford Bypass,  
Jct. US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

Benjamin Logan built Logan's Fort at St. Asaphs, mile to west, 1776. Kentucky County, Virginia, formed 1776. First land court, St. Asaphs 1779. Kentucky made into Lincoln, Jefferson, Fayette counties, 1780. In 1785 part of Lincoln taken for Madison and Mercer counties. Stanford named and made county seat, 1786. Records in courthouse from 1781, oldest in the state.

1109

**CREELSBORO**  
(Creelsboro, Ky. 1313, Russell Co.)

Laid out, 1809, named for Elijah and Elza Creel, pioneers whose son, Reuben, served US in Mexico; his son Enrique served Mexico in US. An interpreter for Gen. W. T. Ward during Mexican War, Reuben stayed on there, was appointed US Consul, 1863, by Pres. Lincoln. Enrique was Governor of Chihuahua State, 1903 to 1906, and Mexican Ambassador to US, 1906 to 1909.

854

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
(Marion County line, Ky. 55,  
Washington Co.)

The first county formed by first Assembly of Kentucky, 1792. Named for Geo. Washington. Springfield, county seat, laid off, 1793, by Matthew Walton; veteran of War of Revolution, legislator. Courthouse built in 1816, oldest used as such in state (1965). First settlers in area, 1776. Lincoln's grandfather came this part Ky., 1782; parents married in county, 1806. (Reverse not included.)

526

**LINCOLN HOMESTEAD**  
(US 150, Ky. 55, Springfield  
Courtyard, Washington Co.)

The certified marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln to Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, is on file

here in Washington Co. Courthouse. Here also preserved is full account of the wedding. Lincoln Homestead State Park, seven miles north, now marks the site of log house where marriage was performed June 12, 1806 by the Rev. Jesse Head, Methodist Pastor.

1038

**JESSE HEAD HOMESITE**  
(Main St., N. of Courthouse,  
Springfield, US 150, Washington Co.)

On June 12, 1806 he performed the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, who, in 1809, became the parents of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S. Head, born in Maryland in 1768, "came a-preaching" to Kentucky in 1798. Cabinet maker, justice of peace, on Sundays he preached fearlessly. Moved shop to Harrodsburg, 1810, kept on preaching, began newspaper.

649

**WOODFORD COUNTY'S  
CIVIL WAR GENERALS**  
(US 62, Versailles, Woodford Co.)

*Maj. Gen. Charles William Field*, 1828-1892, Confederate soldier, engineer; West Point, 1849. Frontier service in southwest to 1855, instructor in cavalry tactics West Point to 1861. Colonel 6th Virginia Cav. 1861. Brig. gen infantry brigade 1862. Opened battle at Mechanicsville; fought at Cedar Mt., 2nd Bull Run, in latter seriously wounded, never fully recovering, 1864, maj. gen. in command Hood's Texas div. Bore heavy part in battles at Cold Harbor and Petersburg. His division half of Lee's army and only effective fighting unit intact left to surrender at Appomattox.

*Brig. Gen. James S. Jackson*, 1823-1862, Union soldier, lawyer, Congressman, veteran Mexican War. Authorized by Lincoln, he recruited 3rd Ky. Cav. in fall 1861. For a time commanded Buell's entire cavalry. Commissioned brig. gen., assigned to command 10th Div. of Buell's army, July 1862. Leading troops at Perryville, he was killed Oct. 8, 1862. Forney wrote: "To die such a death, and for such a cause, was the highest ambition of a man like James S. Jackson . . . He was a Union man for the sake of the Union; and now with his heart's blood, he has sealed his devotion to the flag."

*Maj. Gen. Eli Long*, 1837-1903, Union soldier, graduated from Kentucky Military Institute, 1855. Frontier service against Indians until 1861. Organized 4th Ohio Cavalry as colonel, 1862. Commissioned brig. gen., 1864. Commanded brigade during Atlanta campaign, 1864. He led an assault at Selma, Alabama, March 1865, where his bravery inspired the troops in Union's greatest cavalry victory and for which he was breveted maj. gen. During the Civil War he was wounded five times and cited for gallantry five times. After war lived at Plainfield, New Jersey and is buried there in Hillsdale Cemetery. (Reverse not included.)

## HORSES

Both Abraham Lincoln and his father could appraise the value of a horse. While a soldier in the Black Hawk War, Lincoln appraised his stolen horse and equipment at \$120. While Thomas Lincoln in 1811 described an estray horse as follows: "... a gray mare 8 years old 14 hands high. Branded on the near thigh but not legible a scar on her off side with a dark spot on her neck on the off side under the main about the size of a dollar a sore Back trots natural appraised to \$20."

The above description appears in an old Hardin County (Kentucky) estray book with entries from 1806 to 1815. While the Kentucky pioneers may have been at a loss for words concerning a lot of mundane things, they certainly knew how to describe the color of a horse. The nine hundred and six entries in the old estray book contains these different descriptive colors: bay, bright bay, dark bay, brown bay, dark brown, light brown, dun color, gray, dapple gray, dark gray, flea-bitten gray, iron gray, bright gray, bright iron gray, milk and caider (sic) color, sorrel, bright sorrel, brown sorrel, yellow sorrel, roan, red roan, strawberry roan, yellow, white and flea-bitten white.



## The Lincoln Highway

Editor's Note: With today's super-highway system, the old Lincoln Highway laid out in 1913 is all but forgotten. Extending from New York, N. Y. to San Francisco, California, a distance of 3331.5 miles, its construction cost in 1928 amounted to more than \$100,000,000 not including the \$50,000,000 which was spent upon its 250 miles of city streets.

Doubleday's Encyclopedia, 1940, provides further details which are reprinted with permission.

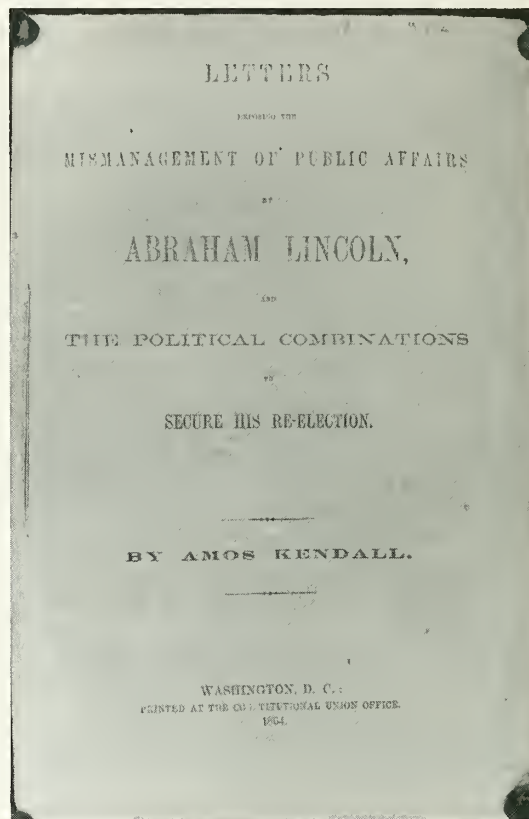
"America's transcontinental Main Street — the greatest automobile road in the world. It was laid out in 1913 by the Lincoln Highway Association as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Beginning at Times Square, N. Y. City, this highway terminates in Lincoln Park, San Francisco, overlooking the Golden Gate. Throughout its length of 3331.5 m. it is a well-built road, and no tolls are charged upon any portion of it. Taking into consideration the topography of the country it is the most direct route to the coast. The highway is marked with a red, white, and blue marker bearing a large letter L on a white field. Up to 1928 more than \$100,000,000 had been spent on the Highway, exclusive of perhaps \$50,000,000 spent upon the 250 m. of city streets which are part of the system. The road has been financed by local appropriations of the cities, counties, and states traversed, assisted by contributions made by men and companies interested in highway improvements. The Highway passes through the following towns in eleven states: Jersey City, Newark and Trenton, N. J.; Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Bedford, Ligonier, Pittsburgh, and Beaver, Pa.; East Liverpool, Canton, Ashland, Mansfield, Bucyrus, and Lima, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ligonier, Goshen, Elkhart, South Bend, and Valparaiso, Ind.; Chicago Heights, Aurora, Geneva, Rochelle, Dixon, and Fulton, Ill.; Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Jefferson, and Council Bluffs, Ia.; Omaha, Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and Big Springs, Neb.; Cheyenne, Laramie, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Evanston, Wyo.; Salt Lake City, Garfield, Tooele, Clover, and Ibapah, Utah; Ely, Eureka, Austin, Fallon, Reno, and Carson City, Nev.; Truckee, Placerville, Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland, and San Francisco, Cal.

For more detailed information concerning "The Lincoln Highway" see *Lincoln Lore* No. 536, July 17, 1939.



*From the Lincoln National Life Foundation*

This bronze marker (4" in diameter) with three flanges for embedding in concrete, was used to mark the Lincoln Highway in the vicinity of Fort Wayne, Indiana. It bears the following inscription: THIS HIGHWAY DEDICATED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The head of Lincoln appears to have been copied from a centennial medallion designed by B. L. Pratt.



*From the Lincoln National Life Foundation*

In 1864 Amos Kendall, journalist and former postmaster general, was a severe critic of the Lincoln Administration, and his 46 page pamphlet (M 302) has long been on our want list. Recently a copy has been acquired by the Foundation, and Kendall's series of 18 anti-Lincoln letters dating from March 25, 1864 to October 8, 1864 constituted a formidable Democratic election campaign document. However, Kendall at all times advocated vigorous measures for the prosecution of the war.

### "Lincoln was the first . . ."

Lincoln was the first President born beyond the boundaries of the original thirteen states.

Lincoln was the first President born in Kentucky.

Lincoln was the first President to obtain a patent.

Lincoln was the first President (1860) to be nominated in a building (Wigwam) that was especially constructed for a political convention.

Lincoln was nominated by the Republican Convention (1860) which was the first to invite the general public.

Lincoln was the first President to wear a beard.

Lincoln was the first President whose military escort (first inaugural) was really a guard instead of an honorary escort.

Lincoln was the first President to issue a national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation fixing the last Thursday of November as the annual date.

Lincoln was the first President to issue an amnesty proclamation to citizens (December 8, 1863).

Lincoln's second inauguration was the first in which Negroes participated.

Lincoln was the first President assassinated.

Lincoln was the first deceased President to rest in state in the United States Capitol rotunda.

Joseph Nathan Kane: Facts About The President.

o

"Next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary Todd Lincoln was the most discussed First Lady in presidential history — and the most assailed."

Ishbel Ross: Sons of Adam, Daughters of Eve — The Role of Women in American History.



KENTUCKY MARKERS

DRAWER //

KENTUCKY IN GENERAL

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